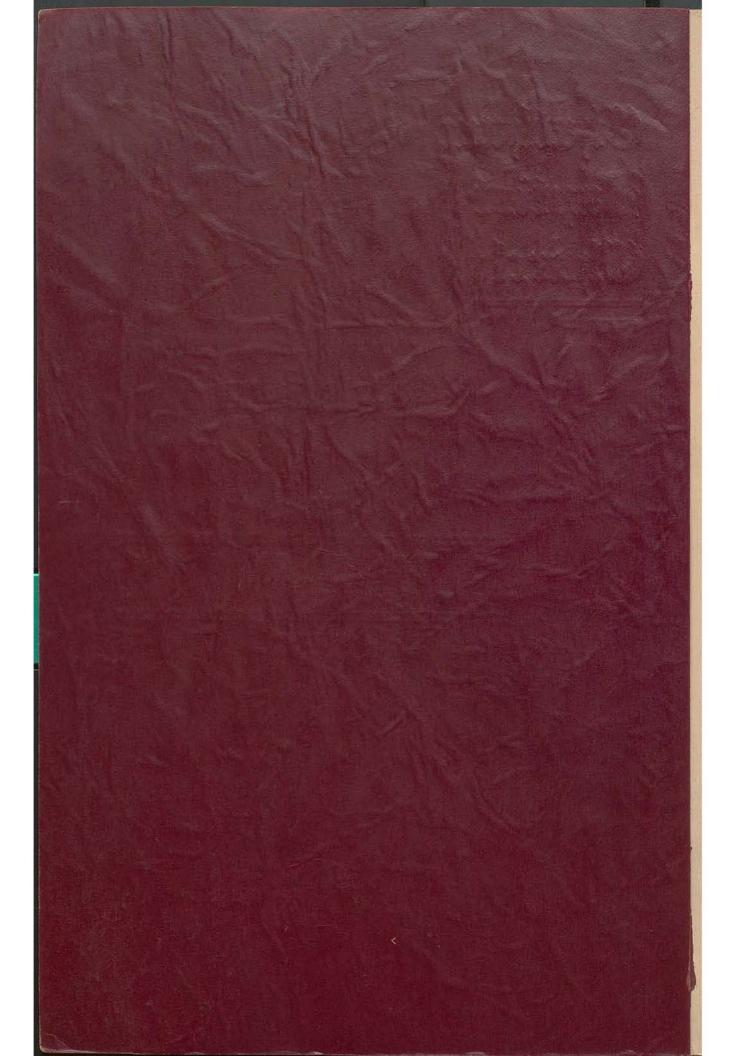
Chatham Baptist Church

CENTENNIAL

1850-1950



LEDDY LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

Chatham Baptist Church

CHATHAM, ONTARIO



CENTENNIAL 1850-1950

CENTENNIAL THEME

"Before us even as behind us, God is."



CENTENNIAL VERSE

"To-morrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

Joshua III, 5.

MINISTER

Rev. Arthur L. Foster, B.A., B.D.

Centennial Hymn

1850—1950

6490

C2



We come unto our Father's God;
Their Rock is our Salvation;
The eternal arms, their dear abode,
We make our habitation:
We bring Thee, Lord, the praise they brought;
We seek Thee as Thy saints have sought
In every generation.

Their joy unto their Lord we bring;
Their song to us descendeth;
The Spirit Who in them did sing
To us His music lendeth:
His song in them, in us, is one;
We praise it high, we send it on,
The song that never endeth.

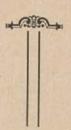
Ye saints to come, take up the strain,
The same sweet theme endeavour;
Unbroken be the golden chain;
Keep on the song for ever;
Safe in the same dear dwelling-place,
Rich with the same eternal grace,
Bless the same boundless Giver.

Amen

Thomas Hornblower Gill, 1819-1906



A Message from our Pastor



Herein is the story of a church. Behind the facts is a romance. It consists in a tale—difficult to convey in words—of hopes and fears, the convictions and principles, of the successive generations who envisioned the church-to-be. It is in the knowledge that before our

forefathers knew the joy of achievement there were years of hard work, prayer and tears. It is in the discovery of the dedicated stewardship of Chatham Baptists who, in one hundred years have contributed an estimated half million dollars to their church and its enterprises. And who can tell how many have shared in the development of the splendid edifice Is it too fanciful to suggest that every building brick and every element of furnishing represents some life that has helped or been helped.

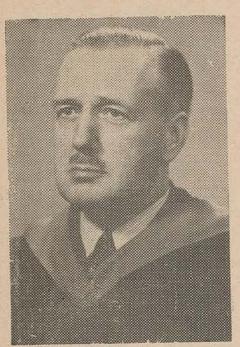
We meet, to-day, as heirs of the past. What we enjoy is the fruit of a centenary of endeavour. The finest compliment we can pay to our great traditions is our steady fidelity to the church of the present.

1950 marks the end of a century of service but, "every ending is a new beginning." There are yet great things to be done. By God's help we shall write glorious new pages into the story and glorify the Saviour who promises, "I will build my church." "Before us, even as behind us. God is."

The author of this pamphlet has rendered a valuable service to his church and denomination. A door—hitherto partially closed by the unfortunate destruction of early records—has been opened into the honourable history of the Chatham Baptist congregation. The complete account now available, has not been obtained without long hours of research.

Greetings to Chatham

REV. GEORGE PEEL GILMOUR, M.A., D.D., D.C.L. President and Vice Chancellor of McMaster University



That I am to share in the centenary celebrations of the Chatham Baptist Church makes it proper for me to extend personal greetings and congratulations, even though my contacts with the work have been few.

The Church, formerly known as the Tabernacle, began in the days when Ontario was "Canada West", when the "underground railway" was operating, and when Baptist co-operative work in central Canada was at a low ebb. All these conditions have changed due to Canadian Confederation, the War Between the States, and the formation, in 1851, of the Regular Baptist Missionary Convention, out of which our present Convention gradually grew.

If we think of our world and our work as being seriously divided to-day, we can gather some courage by remembering conditions a century ago. Canadian-American relations were then still uneasy, the European situation was troubled by the aftermath of 1848 and the rising power of Prussia in a Gemany working toward imperial unity. California had just become a state after the gold-rush of 1849 and the preceding Mexican War, and in Britain there was tension because Pius IX had established a Roman Catholic hierarchy in England. In Canada, 1850 saw the burning of the parliament house in Montreal by mob action, and the clergy reserves question was drawing bitterly to a conclusion. As for Baptists in Canada (later Ontario and Quebec) their College in Montreal was closed because of debts and divided opinions. The Pioneer and Montreal Register had ceased publication and the Canadian Baptist Union had failed to secure the support of various types of Baptists. All Protestant denominations were subdivided in those days, and were not to reach unity among themselves until Confederation. In our case. the chief division was over open or close communion, and the strict communion" churches tended to hold aloof from all co-operative endeavours. But a change was imminent, and the second half of the century was to see a growth in numbers, benevolences, missionary service and unity of spirit impossible earlier.

To that later period the Chatham Church belongs. It has played an honourable part, in its generosity and its general spirit, in the life on the Western Association and the Convention and has given to our foreign mission work and to McMaster the late Dr. R. C. Bensen whose memory is green among the many who were helped by his example and his dedicated learning.

May God's rich blessing rest on your continuing life and

labours.

KESPOZZI

A Message from the Moderator

Greetings to the Chatham Baptist Church from the Western Association. The Baptist Churches of Essex and Kent congratulate your historic church upon the completion of one hundred years of noble Christian ministry in the community of Chatham. The Churches trust that the inspiration of this celebration may stimulate your congregation in even greater accomplishments in the years to come.

Yours on behalf of the Western Association of Baptist Churches.

Kingsville, Ontario

G. K. Tyler, B.Th.

Kastean

From the Chatham Ministerial Association Rev. Clifford Park, M.A., President

It is both a personal pleasure and an official privilege to extend congratulations to the congregation of Chatham Baptist Church on behalf of the Ministerial Association of Chatham and Vicinity on this important occasion.

At 100 years of age a congregation is really only nicely grown up, for the church counts time by centuries and the secret of eternal youth is in heart. In a deep sense every true Christian Church is as old as Christendom and as young as its dreams of to-morrow.

The record of the Chatham Baptist Church is long and honourable, beginning in the very year that Chatham was incorporated as a village, and thus parallelling the entire life of our city. The quality of your Church's leadership, the sanity and vitality of her Christian witness, the wholesomeness of her impact upon the life of the community, and her fine co-operation with other Christian bodies in campaigns of moral reform and in joint enterprises of religious education, have earned for her respect and appreciation of a great company of friends in many folds.

We of the Ministerial Association rejoice with you on this happy occasion and wish for the minister and people God's richest blessing as you gird yourselves to serve the future hour. The way ahead may prove to be dark and difficult. But we are confident that the evangelical zeal and ethical passion which have made your Church a beacon and a bulwark in the days now gone will make her a shining light and a strong fortress in the days that are to be.

Foreword

As has been mentioned already, all church record books before 1905 have been destroyed, thus the early history of the Chatham Baptist Church has been extremely sketchy. Rev. H. W. Stewart, while pastor of the church, did considerable research work into the establishment of the Baptist Church in Chatham. Copies of his notes are on file at McMaster University and with our Church Clerk and extracts from them have been used for this brochure.

Some of the material contained in the pages that follow is a collection of items from old copies of newspapers, from the Canadian Baptist and from papers of the Kent Historical Society. The writer wishes to thank the Staff of the Chatham Public Library, Dr. Talman, Librarian of the University of Western Ontario, and Miss Dorothy Davidson, Assistant Librarian at McMaster University, for making material available. Grateful appreciation also is expressed to former ministers or their relatives who have helped and to senior members of the congregation who have loaned pictures that appear herein.

It is most fitting that Dr. G. P. Gilmour should be with us on the occasion of our 100th Anniversary. It will be noted from the text that he is the third generation that has played a part in our church life. Reference will be found in the minutes of the Ottawa Association of June 1865 by Rev. D. McPhail that Rev. John Gilmour, grandfather of Dr. Gilmour was in Chatham in January 1835; Dr. J. L. Gilmour, his father, preached the Anniversary services in 1910, forty years ago.

November 1. 1950

R. M. Merritt

About the Author

Anonymity—the willingness to do a task without thought of personal recognition—is a splendid and a rare virtue. It was encouraging, therefore, to learn that the author of this booklet intended to send it to press without mention of his own name.

The Centennial General Committee, however, feels that it ought to express, on behalf of the congregation and of itself, its deep debt to Mr. R. Murray Merritt, B.A., B.-Paed., the author. By painstaking research and arduous labor he has opened for us all, pages of our church's story, hitherto closed.

On behalf of the Centennial General Committee,

WALTER J. HAMPTON.

Committees in charge of Centennial Observance

November 12, --- November 19, 1950

Kashean

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Honorary Chairman Chairman Secretary Treasurer

Rev. Arthur L. Foster, B.A., B.D. Walter J. Hampton Miss Dorothy Ingram W. Bramwell Beardall, K.C.

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SUB. COMMITTEES

Invitation

Publicity

Historical

Transportation

Billeting

Music

Social and Decoration

Finance

Stanley A. Gwilt

Lyle Patterson

R. Murray Merritt

Ray Mugridge

Mrs. Milton Mack Mrs. William Stenton

Miss Nora Ingram Mrs. W. B. Beardall

Ladies Aid Mrs. Geo. Lanning Mrs. Ray Mugridge

Alvin J. Dodman

·02000

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMITTEE

Deacon's Board B. Y. P. U. Sunday School Women's Mission Circle Mary Wilson Auxiliary Ushers

Manning E. Morgan Murray French Lyle Patterson Mrs. J. A. Black Mrs. Lloyd Groombridge Max Dunlop

Kent in the Early Days

..on 6.

At the dawn of the Nineteenth Century, Kent was an unbroken wilderness over which roamed a few bands of Indians who pursued their game through tractless forests or fished in the sluggish streams. Deer, bears, wild turkeys and foxes were plentiful while smaller game was abundant then, and for many years after.

Until 1845 the land of Kent was heavily timbered with oak, walnut, whitewood, maple, ash and elm; about that time a demand for some of these, especially walnut, whitewood and oak sprang up. The walnut and whitewood were exported for building material and furniture; the oak was manufactured into staves and shipped to the West Indies for casks and used for sugar and molasses. A few years later beech and maple were cut into cordwood and exported for fuel or used on locomotives on the Great Western Railway, now the Canadian National. The demand for forest products gave an impetus to business among the farming communities and greatly accelerated the clearing of the land. A standard saw log of walnut containing 303 feet, board measure, sold for fifty cents in 1846.

Nothing retarded the progress of this area more than the lack of any system of drainage and, even as late as 1860 the crops were generally inferior on this account. Narrow strips of land along the Sydenham and the Thames and the land along Talbot Street were the only parts where farming could be profitably carried on, the intervening territory being covered by water a great part of the year and travelled over only on corduroy roads. These extensive swamps were generally impassible even on foot until late summer and were breeding grounds of mosquitoes that rose in clouds from their surfaces and infected the inhabitants with malaria. The water-soaked lands fed several creeks, on the south side of the Thames, and made them of sufficient size to furnish power for sawing lumber and grinding grain.

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Early Surveys

There is no doubt that the first settlers arrived before the first surveyor, but they were few in number and the area was practically in a virgin state when, in 1790, Patrick McNiff, the pioneer surveyor made his appearance. McNiff, in his field notes along the River La Tranche or Thames, says that at eight miles up the river the first settlement, on the south bank, commenced, and thence up to the

Forks (Chatham). He says that the land between the branches (Thames and McGregor's Creek) was formerly cultivated by Indians and that Thomas Clark, a millwright, had the wooden material already prepared for the erection of his mill. The next surveyor to appear was Abram Iredell, who in 1795 laid out part of the Townsite of Chatham, an area of 600 acres, 400 acres in Harwich and 200 acres in Raleigh, having been set aside as a Town Plot and Military Reserve.

In 1793 Governor Simcoe and suite made a trip from Detroit to Niagara over land. It is understood that the Governor gave consideration to the establishment of the Provincial capital at the Lower Forks (Chatham).

Grants of several town plots had been made as early as 1802 but it was not until 1820 that William Chrysler erected, what is believed to be, the first log house for a permanent home, on the spot where the Jahnke and Greenwood Funeral Home now stands.

In 1833 a census was taken which revealed a population of about 300. In1837 North Chatham was first surveyed and in 1850 Chatham was incorporated as a village.

The first church in Chatham was built in 1819. Due to the efforts of Rev. Richard Pollard, first missionary of the Church of England in Kent County, St. Paul's Anglican Church was erected on the north side of Stanley Avenue, almost opposite Victoria Park.

In these early days, members of other Protestant denominations either worshipped at St. Paul's or held services in private homes or, in favourable weather, in the sugar grove where the Bank of Montreal now stands.

In 1841 or 1842, the Weslyan Methodists built on King Street near the present C. P. R. Station. Following the Methodists, were the Presbyterians, the Roman Catholics. St. Joseph's Church in 1847, and then the Free Church of Scotland in 1853.

Beginning of Baptist Work

(From the Minutes of the Ottawa Association, June 1865, Written by Rev. Duncan McPhail).

"A Baptist Church was founded, as far as can be ascertained, early in the Spring of 1826. Twelve Baptists settled in the rear of Chatham, then a wild, dreary, unbroken forest, about 1821 or 1822. These settlers emigrated about 1817, some, somewhat later, from Glenylon, a small sequestered glen in Perthshire, Scotland.

Early in 1822, two brethern visited Mr. Duncan McPhail, a schoolmaster, who resided at St. Andrew's about three miles from Montreal, and induced him to settle in Chatham. That year five persons sat down to commemorate the Lord's death for the first

time in the rear of Chatham. By 1827 ten had been baptized. Mr. McPhail conducted Divine Services until he took ill in 1829 and died in 1832.

Few churches were more fiercely or insidiously assailed than the Baptist Church in her infant state. However, the church was never torn asunder.

In the summer of 1834 a young man journeyed to St. Andrews and asked Rev. John Gilmour to come to Chatham, saying that the church was feeble and nearly all the members dead. In January of the following year this young man, who later became Rev. D. McPhail, the writer of this article, received a letter stating that Mr. Gilmour was coming that month. During the week of his sojourn many services were held and 21 were baptised. The good work continued and 80 or 90 were added to the church.

By 1864 four hundred had been baptized and added to the church since 1826."

It was during the decade, between 1843 and 1853, a time of church building in Chatham, that our Church had its inception, the period before 1850 being one of uncertainty. From the record of the Association of Baptist Churches, Isaac Elliott represented Chatham at the first meeting in 1836. Chatham was represented when the Association was divided in 1837. Rev. Lloyd Houlding in reporting the early days of the Western Association, now Essex and Kent Churches, revealed a minute on the record of the Colchester Church as of February 22nd, 1846; "Brother Sparks was delegated to go to Council TO ORGANIZE A CHURCH AT CHATHAM."

This date accords with a statement of an aged member af the First Baptist Church (coloured) repeated to Rev. H. W. Stewart by Rev. M. Browne, "Ours is the First Baptist Church because it was begun in 1843, three years before the big Baptist Church of the white folk".

The first proof in print of the existence of a white Baptist Church in Chatham was found in "The Chatham Directory and County Gazeteer" published in 1885. On page 21 it states—

"There were fourteen Ministers in Kent in 1850" Then naming them it includes three Baptists, one of them Rev. R. Herrington. Chatham.

On page 86, after naming several important events of 1850 "the most momentous period in the history of Chatham" it gives the location of business concerns along King Street and says.

"Mrs. Walsh's shebeen, at the corner of King and William "HAS GIVEN WAY TO THE BAPTIST CHURCH"

These statements would lead us to believe that Elder Richard Herrington, born near Albany, N. Y., February 1, 1796. moved to

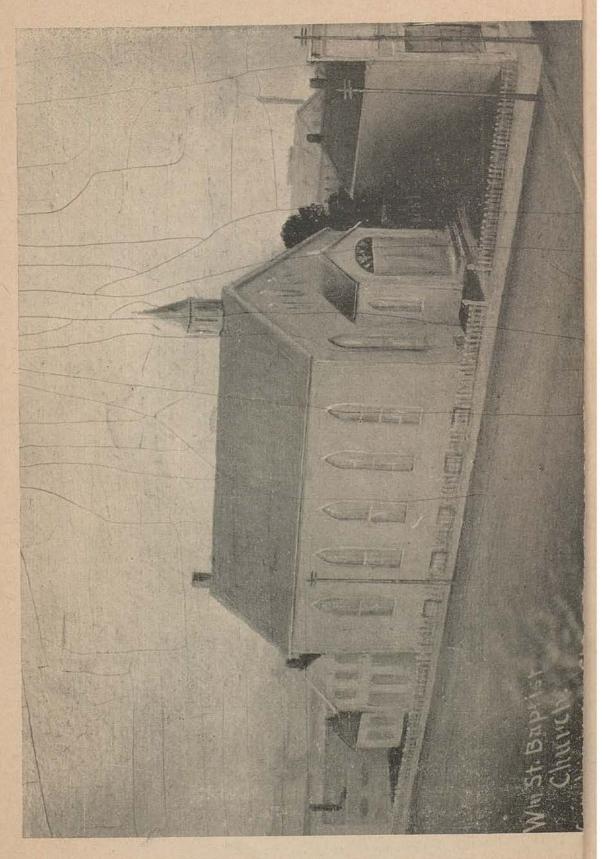
near Kingston, in 1803, was converted and baptized at Phillipsville in 1813, moved to the Township of Grosfield South, Essex County, where he was licensed to preach and ordained into the ministry, was the founder of the Chatham Baptist Church. His parish extended from the Detroit River to the vicinity of St. Thomas. For over 50 years, he lived and laboured among his churches with delightful acceptance. He rode horseback over almost impassable roads, or travelled on foot, being compelled to leap from log to log by means of a strong staff which was his constant companion. Today there is a church at nearly everyone of his preaching stations.

A memorial Bronze plate in the Kingsville Baptist Church is a reminder of his work.

Probably the first meetings were in homes, or in the open, when weather permitted, but, in 1850 Mrs. Walsh's shop had been taken over for the services and Elder Harrington was recognized as Baptist Minister in Chatham.

In 1853 Archibald Campbell became the pastor and in the same year two triangular lots, 79 and 80. Old Survey, were purchased for £125, from John and Phillip Smith. The property extended 115 feet along William Street, 91 feet west from William Street and contained 5232 sq. ft. An original copy of the conveyance written in long hand on heavy paper with all signatures thereon, is on file at the Chatham Museum. On this we read as follows:

"Instrument Number 324 in Book A for the Town of Chatham is a memorial of Indenture of Bargain and Sale made the 4th day of January in the year of our Lord 1853 between John and Philip Smith, Vendors and Archibald Campbell, Minister, Duncan Campbell, Teacher, David Patten, Mariner, Thomas E. Dawson, Joiner, all of the Town of Chatham and James Arnold of the Township of Harwich, Yeoman, trustees nominated and appointed under authority of an Act of Parliamnt of the Province of Upper Canada made in the 9th year of the reign of his late Majesty King George IV entitled an Act for the Relief of Religious Societies therein mentioned wherein, certain powers and privileges are conferred upon the religious societies enumerated for the purposes of enabling them to appoint trustees in perpetual succession for the purpose of holding lands and whereas a religious society and congregation of Baptists called by the said Act "Anabaptists" have occasion for the tract or parcel of ground hereinafter described to be used for the site of a chapel and the support of public worship and the propagation of the Christian religion and have in order to avail themselves to the provisions of the said Act appointed the said persons to be trustees of The Regular Baptist Church of the Town of Chatham. The document witnesseth that in consideration of £125 Lots 79 and 80 on the corner of King and William Streets in the said Town of Chatham were conveyed to the said trustees which said document is witnessed by Edward Fillmore of the Village af Vienna in the County of Elgin, Merchant's Clerk and Harry Murray Wrong of the said village, Medical Student.



Our First Building

··esto.

Upon this lot was erected the original church building. Details of its construction are not available but from the painting which hangs in the Sunday School room and from records at the fire hall, it was a brick building surmounted by a tower; from activities held therein, we learn that there was a full-sized basement. The cost of the building was greater than the members were able to meet and at no time was the church free af debt.

The church was, in due course completed and opened for services on Sunday, September 24, 1854. The following item appeared in the local paper of Wednesday, September 22, 1854.

"We are pleased to state that the new Baptist Church in this town will be opened for divine services Sunday next, when several clergymen from abroad are expected to preach on the occasion. Services will be held at 11.00 A.M., 3.00 and 6.00 P.M. at each of which collections will be taken up to be appropriated to defray the debt on the church.

A large attendance is earnestly requested."

On February 23rd, 1855 the trustees of the church then recited as being, Archibald Campbell, Minister, Duncan Sinclair, Teacher, James Arnold, Yeoman, Robert Houston of the Township of Harwich, Yeoman, and Samuel McCully of the Township of Howard, Yeoman mortgaged the property to the People's Building Society to secure a loan of £400. (This was discharged on Sept. 18, 1861.)

Then on July 26th, 1855, the same parties mortgaged the lands to the same society for a further sum of £400. (This was also discharged in 1861).

The following items of interest will indicate the various activities of the ladies of the church to raise funds for the church.

Wednesday, December 10, 1856.

"Our citizens will please bear in mind that a Bazaar and Supper will be held at the Baptist Chapel (Mr. Campbell) this evening commencing at 7 o'clock. At present there is every promise that there will be a good turnout. The proceeds are to be appropriated to the sole purpose of liquidating the debt incurred in the erection of the building. Speakers and a good choir will be present to add to the interest of the occasion."

January 5, 1859

"Tea Meeting."

We are pleased to learn that the ladies of the Sewing Society of the Baptist Church (Mr. Campbell) will hold a tea meeting on

Thursday, the 6th inst for the purpose of raising funds for the new set of lamps now in use. The object is a good one and we hope their endeavours may be awarded with the merit they justly deserve."

Pastor Campbell laboured in Chatham until September 1859. "The Canadian Baptist Register" of 1857 (5th annual report of the Board of Baptist Convention of Canada) states; Rev. A. Campbell is settled over the Tabernacle (to distinguish it from the Coloured Baptist Church) Church in Chatham, Canada West, which numbers 37 members with about 100 hearers, a Sunday School of 75." The report shows that Mr. Campbell preached 130 sermons, made 47 visits, travelled 330 miles and baptized 33. From this report we learn that Pastor Campbell had 3 stations to look after. This is indicated by reading the "Auld Lang Syne" columns of the old papers where in 1857—58—59 he married many couples who resided in rural settlements.

Pastor Campbell also felt the pinch of the debt on the church and it became necessary for him to teach school a few hours each day to defray expenses.

Subsequent reports show that by 1858 the membership had increased to 70 and by 1859 to 75.

From the local news we have the first intimation of Pastor Campbell's intention to leave the Chatham Church.

September 17, 1859.

"Goes to Ottawa"

Rev. A. Campbell who for the past nine years (?) has filled the capacity of pastor to the Baptists of this locality and for whose benefit a soiree was held in the Baptist Chapel on Tuesday night last, is about to leave Chatham for the purpose of taking up permanent residence in or near the City of Ottawa, where it is understood his parents reside.

The tea meeting was a token highly complimentary to the Reverend Gentleman in whose honour it was gotten up. Who is to fill Mr. Campbell's pulpit or whether it is to be filled for the present we are unable to say. Mr. Campbell, however leaves Chatham with the best wishes of a large number of our citizens for his future welfare."

Little is known of Pastor Campbell after he left Chatham. From an obituary that appeared in the Canadian Baptist, April 12, 1900, it was learned that he was born in Isle of Mull, Argylshire, Scotland and came to Canada at the age of eleven. He was converted at 14 and baptized by Rev. J. Edwards. At 21 he entered Montreal Baptist College and after graduation came to Chatham, where he was ordained and remained until September 13, 1859. He is listed in the Canadian Register for the last time in 1861 as one of the "Baptist Ministers without Pastoral Charge." However he later was pastor for 2 years in Centreville Baptist Church, St. Joseph County, Mich.

His father died in 1863 and he left a regular pastorate to take charge of his father's affairs and farm at Lachaber Bay where he remained until his death on February 26, 1900. While at his father's home he was accustomed to preach to the neighbours in the nearby school house and supplied in Thurso Church pulpit. He left a widow, three sons and three daughters.

After Pastor Campbell left Chatham the membership decreased, possibly through hard times or due to too much competition or lack of religious life in the town. For one year, 1860, Mr. J. Painter is recorded as pastor. He was followed by Mr. A. Wade who died here in January 1862. The church remained without a pastor until Rev. J. L. Campbell came in 1868 except for the one year 1865 when Mr. A. Duncan held services in the Town Hall.

Four items in the local paper sheds some light on Baptist affairs during the pastorate of Mr. Wade.

Tuesday, September 17, 1861.

"Baptist Soiree"

"We wish to appraise our readers that the congregation of the Baptist Church on the corner of King and William Streets will give a soiree in that church on Friday 21st. The funds realized will be appropriated towards the debt owing on the building. Should the evening be fine, we doubt not, the attendance will be large. Mr. McKellar it is said will occupy the chair. Admission 25 cents."

The report of this soiree also revealed certain matters which are reflected in the entrees at th Registry Offices.

Saturday, September 21, 1861.

"BAPTIST CHURCH SOIREE"

"On Friday evening last a soiree was held in the Baptist Chapel corner King and William Streets. Arch. McKellar, Esq., presided as Chairman. The object of the Soiree was for the purpose of realizing funds to help the payments due on the building. It would seem that for some years past, this edifice has been indebted to one of our money lending societies. until now a debt amounting to over \$2000, has accumulated and the society being anxious to realize, a few days ago, advertised the building for public auction. By an activity on the part of the pastor and a corresponding activity on the part of the congregation, we are happy to learn that a new arrangement has been made with the offices of the money lending association whereby, it is hoped that the liabilities of the Chapel will be liquidated.

We should esimate that nearly 300 sat down to the well-provided tables, spread in the basement or vestry room. The cakes were supplied in great abundance and variety and tea and coffee sufficient to suit the most extravagant. The attention of the people

having been paid to the wants of the inner man, the company retired upstairs where excellent and short addresses were delivered by the Rev. Wm. Rennie, Rev. A. Ball, Mr. Ryder, Mr. Cochrane and the pastor Mr. A. Wade.

At the close of the evening the receipts were announced as being \$60.00. Music by the choir was exceedingly good. The proceedings closed and after votes of thanks had been proposed and passed to the Chairman, the Choir, the Speakers and the Ladies."

The "activities" above referred to consisted in the discharging of the two mortgages for £400, taken out in 1855 and the placing of a new mortgage with the People's Building Society for \$2,000. The trustees in this document are listed as; Duncan Sinclair, School Teacher, James Lamont, Commission Agent, William Flater, Builder, Henry Powell Hoage, Sash Maker, and Oscar Arnold, Yeoman.

Even if it was heavily encumbered with debt, the Baptist Chapel was the only church with the facilities for social evenings, and until 1863 other churches used the basement of the Baptist Church for such festivities.

The Presbyterian Soiree held on Tuesday, October 15, 1861 in the Chapel was reported on at great length. A portion of this insertion gives us some information about Mr. Wade.

"Mr. Wade said he was a Yankee and could not do much with his small hammer. His theme was Benevolence and with that small hammer of which he spoke, he dealt several of his brethern on the platform some pretty severe raps. He did not seem to us like church establishments, creeds and the doctrine of reprobation. He dealt the lawyers also a severe thrust. He assured his audience he did not like to be at enmity with any man, or with any dog. He would rather have a dog come to him wagging his tail than showing his teeth."

November 16, 1861.

At a soiree held by Rev. Angus McCall's Church, in the Baptist Chapel, Mr. Wade addressed the meeting. "His subject was grand (Rights of Man and the Blessing of Liberty) and he spoke with an eloquence peculiar to himself."

The following indicates the end of Mr. Wade's pastorate.

Friday, January 31, 1862.

Died in this Town on the 29th inst. Rev. A. Wade, Baptist Minister, aged 44 years.

Funeral this date at 1 o'clock P.M., from his late residence, Wellington Street, to the place of internment.

"Friends are invited to attend."

Following the demise of Mr. Wade the pulpit remained vacant until 1865, when Mr. Duncan came. The last recorded event held in the Chapel was dated Tuesday, May 27, 1862;

Announcement of Recital.

"The congregation is trying to extricate themselves from the indebtedness incurred in the erection of the fine edifice for public worship, and being few in number but by no means wanting in generosity or perseverance."

In 1865 Mr. A. Duncan came to take charge and found only 40 members who were faced with the possibility of losing their building. A letter written by Rev. Robert Boyd, Pastor of the Wabash Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, commends Mr. Duncan and the Chatham cause to its readers, "Rev. Duncan, Pastor of the Chatham Church, has laboured with much success in important fields in Canada West and has been blessed in bringing interests into strength and efficiency. He is now at much self-denial MAKING AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE LITTLE CHURCH IN CHATHAM FROM LOSING THEIR PLACE OF WORSHIP." No doubt Rev. Boyd was a friend of Rev. Duncan and hoped some Baptist in Chicago would give aid.

The Canadian Baptist Register gives a few facts about Mr. Duncan. He was a minister in Aylmer in 1861, at Euphemia and Wallaceburg in 1862, at Newbury in 1863, at Chatham in 1865, at St. Thomas in 1866, at Dorchester in 1867, at Fingal in 1868 and in Mount Elgin in 1869. In the Register of 1872 the following note appears. "Rev. A. Duncan came from Scotland to this country, a Presbyterian and was baptized by Rev. Robert Boyd, D.D., when pastor of the Baptist Church in Brockville. Early in the history of the Society (The Society for the Relief of Superannuated Baptist Ministers and the Widows and Orphans of Baptist Ministers) he became a member and received his first annuity in April 1869. He was then, and up to the time of his death, the winter of 1871, unable to do ministerial work."

The fact that the soirees of other Chatham churches were after 1863 held in the Music Hall in Chatham together with the following items leads us to believe that the Chapel on the corner of King and William Sts. was closed and services were held in the Town Hall.

In a Special Issue of the Chatham Planet, 1904 (Old Home Week) J. R. Gemmil, then Sheriff, contributed an article, "Chatham as I saw it Forty Years Ago" (1864) in which he describes the various buildings on King Street as they were when he came to Chatham. He says in part. "On the south side starting at William Street, stood the original Baptist Church, then (1864) unoccupied and dilapidated, but shortly afterwards, repaired and the congregation re-organized"

Again from the Registery Office we obtain our information as to what was going on in Baptist circles. On February 13, 1868, the Peoples Building Society sold the lands under their mortgage of 1861 to Robert Lowe, Merchant, for the sum of \$1,000. Robert Lowe thereupon immediately reconveyed the lands (his wife Anna Mariah Lowe joining to bar her dower) to the trustees of the Regular

Baptist Church of Chatham for the same consideration of \$1,000. The trustees at this time were John Traxler, Merchant, Thomas Tilsworth, Miller, James Lamont, Merchant, James Douglas, Surgeon, George Verrall, Printer and Robert Lowe, Merchant.

The same month after this re-financing had been done the following appeared in the issue of the Chatham paper dated Feb. 26, 1868.

"On Sabbeth next, Elder Duncan will preach in Town Hall (the old Market Building) commencing at 11.00 A.M. Immediately after the public service a meeting will take place for the purpose of organizing a church in connection with the Regular Baptist Denomination to which all members are cordially invited. The public will be pleased to learn that the Baptist body have secured and paid for the Chapel on the corner of King and William Street, so long vacant and purposes as soon as weather will permit, putting the house in thorough repair and holding services there."

The old Chapel was thoroughly renovated. New life had entered the Baptists and in August of that year, 1868, when all was in readiness, they called J. L. Campbell fresh from Woodstock College to be their minister. Mr. Campbell was ordained in this church and from that date the church was RECOGNIZED by the Baptist body. According to records from McMaster University, "J. L. Campbell was the first minister to be referred to as Reverend, ministers previously were called Elder or Pastor." Quoted from the Dundas Centennial Booklet.

Rev. John Campbell proved to be a vigorous preacher, a keen debater and an able leader. Again quoting from Sheriff Gemmill's article we read that, "Rev. Campbell, fresh from the college and who will be remembered as a zealous contraversalist."

Under his leadership the church membership began to increase from 26 when he came to 226, money was raised and debts paid. The old church was becoming too small and consideration was being given to the finding of a new and larger quarters.

The obituary of Deacon John Gilmour Hay, grandfather or Miss May Abraham, who died on April 21, 1873 at the age of 42, was written by Rev. J. L. Campbell. In it Rev. J. L. Campbell states that when Mr. Hay came to Chatham in 1867 there was no church but it was his privilege to baptize the late Deacon Hay, he being the first candidate, on the evening of August 23, 1868. In 1868-69 among others the following were baptized, Mrs. William Abraham, then Clara Hay; Mr. Thomas Sainsbury, father of Mrs. E. Mac-Kenzie; Miss C. Sainsbury; and Mrs. Albert Mann.

Each candidate for baptism was asked certain questions and requested to sign their baptisimal certificate as having read the passages referred to in the questions. A copy of such, that signed by Mr. Thomas Sainsbury, is as follows;

Baptist Church, Chatham

Questions for Candidates for Church Fellowship.

I.—Have you been brought to see yourself a lost and ruined sinner, and justly condemned as such by the Holy Law of God,—Acts ii. 37; xvi. 29, 30; Rom. iii. 9, 10; Gal. iii. 10

II.—Do you believe the Gospel record that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," that he "Died for our sins according to the scriptures;" and that he was buried and rose again according to the scriptures; and that by Him all that believe are justified," ie, counted righteous?—I Cor. xv. 3, 4; 1 Tim. i 15; Rom. v. 6, iv. 25; John iii. 14-18; Acts xiii. 38, 39.

III.—Have you peace with God "through faith in his blood:" do you rely alone on his meritorious obedience in life and death for salvation; in other words, can you say from the heart, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness?—Rom. iii. 24-26; iv. 4, 5; v. 1, 19; Acts xvi. 31.

IV.—Are you willing to be baptised, i. e. immersed in water, as a confession of your hope in Christ, and as a sign of your union with Him in His death and Resurrection?—Rom. vi. 3-5; Col. ii. 12; 1 Peter iii. 21.

V.—Do you regard your submission to the ordinance of baptism as an act of personal obedience to Jesus Christ, as your Lord and Master, and to which His word alone binds you?—Mark xvi. 15, 16; Acts ii, 38; x. 47, 48; xviii, 8.

VI.—Do you desire to assemble as often as possible with this Church for worship, and together with them, to partake of the Supper of the Lord—eating the bread and drinking the cup in commemoration of His death?—Matt. xvii. 20; Heb. x. 25; Luke xxii. 19, 20; 1 Cor. xi. 23, 29.

VII.—Will you join them as often as you can in the stated meetings for prayer and supplication?—Matt. xviii. 19; Eph. vi. 18, 19; Col. iv. 2, 3; James v. 16.

VIII.—Will you assist in maintaining the purity of the Church by acknowledging its authority to exercise discipline, and submitting, if need be, to the same, when administered according to the Word of God?—1 Cor. v.; 2 Thess. iii. 6—14.

IX.—Will you use your utmost endeavour, by word and deed, to promote unity of action and brotherly love in the church—forgiving injuries, supposed or real—helping to bear the burdens of the weak—restoring the erring, and showing meekness and kindness to all?—Eph. iv. 32; Gal. vi. 2; 1 Thess. v. 14, 15.

X.—Will you contribute, regularly, and according as God prospers you, of your worldly substance towards the necessary expenses connected with the work of the Gospel amongst us?—1 Cor. xvi. 2; Gal. vi. 6-10; Heb. xiii. 16.

XI.—Should you, for any reason, desire to disconnect yourself from the fellowship of this Church to join another of the same order, will you FIRST communicate with the Pastor or one of the Brethren in Office?— Heb. xiii. 17.

Will you kindly read carefully and prayerfully the passages quoted under each of these questions?

(Signed) Thomas Sainsbury

The Burning of the Church

Records at the Chatham Fire Department show that the fire occurred on May 28, 1873, this was, according to a Hundred Year Calendar, on Wednesday. Mrs. Andrew Thompson told the writer that she was attending Central School at the time and that they all stood up to watch the fire. Mr. J. C. Wanless, father of Deacon Geo. Wanless, Arthur Wanless, and the late Ed. Wanless, saw the fire in the tower of the Church. Mr. John Mann stated that he was watching the fire in the Rutley House, which was later extinguished, and rushed to the church and helped save a few of the pipes from the organ. The above mentioned records reveal that it was a brick building and had an organ. It was valued at \$5,500, was insured for \$3,400, and was totally destroyed. The cause of the fire is shown as accidental; the Fire Chief was S. J. Somerville. At this fire the famous Hyslop and Ronald "Chatham" steam fire engine, purchased in 1870 was used by No. 1 Excelsior Company which had its head-quarters in the Old Market Building.

More detailed information about the fire was obtained from the London Free Press files. From the issue of May 29, 1873 we read as follows:

"At ten minutes to 11 o'clock to-day (28 May) this morning the fire bell sounded the alarm of fire. At first it was supposed to be a false alarm but a few moments later proved the contrary, and on going up King Street flames were seen shooting up from the vicinity of the Market Square and on our arrival we were startled at the great danger before us. The building where the fire originated was Mr. I. Schneider's upholstery, an establishment on the east side of the market square. The flames in a few moments quickly devoured this establishment and extended to Stringer's Hotel. From there to Messrs. High and Fleming's Agricultural warehouse and foundry and thence to the building of a Mr. Bently or the remains of said building, which was partly destroyed by fire about a year ago. The above buildings were all destroyed; the stable of Mr. Forhan, as also the Rutley House, were saved by great exertions of the firemen and citizens who worked nobly against the devouring element. It was feared at one time that the Rutley Block to King Street and all the buildings in the rear between the Market Square and William Street would be destroyed. The sparks or large cinders from Stringer's Hotel, there being a quite a strong breeze at the time, caused the Baptist Church to take fire, which in a few moments was a mass of flame, and completely ruined, before anything could be done to stay the devouring element. Messrs. Jahnke and Campbell's new buildings immediately in front of the Baptist Church had a narrow escape, as also did the residence of Mr. Kent on William Street. We did not expect at one time to have to record one of the largest fires that ever prevailed in our midst, but as it is we should only be thankful that the result was not worse. The loss cannot fall short of between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00." The estimate of the damage done was very close to that given in the Fire Department records, the total therein being \$20,075.00.

On the 18th of September, 1874, the trustees of the church who then were; William Roe, Physician, Joseph H. Bell, Carpenter, William Floeter, Carpenter, James Oldershaw, Merchant, Thomas Pickering. Carpenter, and James Knight sold the lands in consideration of \$1,500.00 reciting that the said lands had become unnecessary to be retained for religious purposes.

Our Present Edifice.

The fire of 1873 and the larger congregations made it necessary to secure a new site for the church. In the interval services were held in a hall on William Street almost directly across from the old church.

A new lot was purchased, on the corner of William and Park Streets, from Mr. Charles Wood, on August 27th, 1873 for the sum of \$2,000.00 This lot was 142 ft. along Park Street and 141 ft. along William Street; in April 1888 this lot was reduced along William Street by the sale of 45 ft. frontage to Mr. Baskerville for \$650.00, and upon it was erected the house now owned by Mr. F. W. Waterhouse.

The trustees whose name appear on the Conveyance are: William L. Roe, Physician; George W. Verrall, Painter; John Traxler, Gentleman; Robert Ingram, Gentleman; William Floeter, Carpenter, and Manoah Greeves, Bricklayer. The church was known as the William Street Regular Church. A mortgage was placed on the property in 1874 for \$4,000.00 (discharged 1892).

Laying the Corner Stone.

(From the Canadian Baptist, August, 1874)

"We learn that the corner stone of the new Baptist Chapel in Chatham was laid on Friday last, the 14th inst. being the 6th Anniversary both as to the day of the week and month of the recognition of the church and the ordination of the pastor. The occasion was one of particular interest and exceeded in enthusiasm and success the most sanguine expectations. The presence of Rev. W. Stewart of Hamilton and Bro. D. S. McEwan of Wallaceburg with others contributed much to the success of the occasion. The walls are already 12 ft. high and the building is being pushed foreward rapidly. When completed it will be one of the finest Baptist Church edifices in the Dominion.

Prayer meetings are being held every night and a number await the ordinance of Baptism at the opening."

Chapel Opening.

(From the Canadian Baptist, January 21, 1875)

"Sabbath the 3rd inst. was a season long to be remembered by the Baptists of this Town. The basement of our commodious and beautiful chapel was dedicated on the above day, January 3, 1875, to the worship of God. On the 16th of August, 1868, our old chapel was re-opened, the church recognized, numbering 26 members. On May 28, 1873 about 11 o'clock a.m., it was burned to the ground. Since that time we have been worshipping in the Music Hall, at a rental of \$400.00 a year. Shortly after the burning of the chapel our present site, the very best in town, was purchased for \$2,000.00 On the first of July last the contract for the erection of the new chapel was let to Messrs. McCall and Pickering, who have pushed foreward the work with commendable energy. The basement which is lit with gas and seated with chairs will contain comfortably an audience of 500 persons, in addition to which there are four classrooms, furnace room, storerooms, etc. Altogether it is by far the finest basement I have ever seen.

Dedication sermons were preached by the Rev. Dr. Davidson of Guelph, at 11 o'clock a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Both sermons were exceedingly able and were listened to with great interest by a full congregation. In the evening a comprehensive and characteristic sermon was preached by the Rev. F. N. Barlow, of Munroe Mich., the chapel being so crowded that many were compelled to leave.

On Monday evening the largest tea meeting that we ever had in Chatham, was held in the basement. The house was crowded to the utmost capacity. Able addresses were delivered by Revs. E. Turner, W. S. Griffith, F. N. Barlow and Dr. Davidson. As a result with the collections of the Sabbeth the sum of \$900.00 was added to the building fund.

The whole chapel will be completed next summer. The audience room with galleries all around will seat comfortably one thousand persons.

On Wednesday at the close of the prayer meeting Rev. Campbell was presented with an exceedingly valuable and beautiful overcoat."

Senior members of the church advise that the basement was heated by two large metal covered furnaces placed at the east end of the road, these burned cordwood which was kept in the storeroom at the back. The pipe organ, part of which was in the old church was in the south west corner, the rostrum in the centre and the choir sat between the organ and the minister's platform.

The upstairs consisted of merely the four walls and the roof; baptisms were held there in water which often froze during the night.

We continued to worship in the basement during the remainder of the ministry of Rev. J. L. Campbell, who left in December, 1875, to take up a new charge at Dundas, Ontario. Rev. F. N. Barlow, who had been at the opening the previous January came from Munroe, Mich. to be the minister and remained until the latter part of 1876. It was during the period when Rev. F. N. Barlow was here that the plans were undertaken to complete the audience room. The work was pushed to completion by Rev. E. J. Stobo who followed Rev. Barlow and the church was officially dedicated on

March 17, 1878. The following description of the interior together with the dedication ceremonies appeared in two issues of the Canadian Baptist of March 1878 and are quoted "in toto".

"By the burning of their place of worship, located at the corner of King and William Streets, some years ago, the Baptist body of this town suffered severe loss, but with energy worthy of the cause in which they are engaged, they almost immediately began the erection of a new edifice at the corner of William and Park Streets. Early in 1875 they had it sufficiently completed to occupy the basement, and have since conducted their worship there. The late depression in trade and labour having interfered materially with the Church as well as other funds and various causes have combined to hinder until lately the completion of the building. As it is now complete and about to be dedicated to the worship of God, a description of the structure will be of interest to our readers.

The building as we have said, is located on the corner of William and Park Streets, an excellent situation. It is 105 ft. in length and 54 ft. in width. The style is simple Gothic and consists of two storeys. The basement is well lighted, has a ceiling of 12 ft. 6 in. and is divided into main school-room, capable of seating 400 persons and the usual complement of class and retiring rooms. The hot-air furnaces which are in the basement, are so constructed, as to heat both basement and principal audience room. Nearby is the well, with force pump connected for filling the baptistry when required for baptismal purposes. The main auditorium room is reached from William Street entrance hall by pairs of handsome, broad, easy stairs, which end again in a fine hallway on the second floor, and from which you pass into the audience room through folding doors. The main floor is laid out with side and centre aisles, leading to 3 rows of pews of very neat design, constructed of chestnut and pine, as it is also the wainscotting of the room. At the farther or west end is a double platform, on the lower part of which is the opening to the baptistry, and on it stands the communion table and chairs. On the upper platform is the reading desk and the minister's chairs.

The platform furniture is all uniform and of unique design in oak and walnut with crimson upholstering and reflects much credit of the workmen of establishment of Mr. John Weston, King Street, W. The platform is covered with a rich carpet of warm tints. Just behind the pulpit is the organ loft or choir gallery formed by the alcove addition of the building, the gallery having rich Gothic panelling across its front; a very neat pipe organ is in position in it. At the east end of the room and extending in somewhat the form of a horse shoe, nearly half the length of the building, is a large gallery that adds much to the beauty of the room as to the seating capacity. The panelling of its front is also Gothic, and of chestnut and pine, in keeping with the rest of the woodwork.

The main audience room and gallery will seat comfortably 1,000 persons. The ceiling is panelled, shoring the main timbers of the roof, which are stained walnut, and the panelling of varnished

pine, also shows the natural grain of the wood giving a very fine effect. The walls are finished in rough stucco and blocked in imitation stone. Around the arch of the singing gallery is a moulding in plaster ending with a pendant rose and water-lily. The church is lighted from the ceiling by eleven star-shaped pendants having eight jets each, so constructed that any of the eight may be lighted independent of the others, they are finished in blue and gold, and manifest fine workmanship from the establishment of Messrs. J. & W. McKeough. The painter's work has been mainly in oil and varnish and gives the room a clean and neat appearance. Though not the most costly, it is pronounced by competent judges the finest audience room in the Town of Chatham. The whole cost of grounds, organ and furnishings is about \$18,000.00, of which sum more than one-half has been paid leaving a balance of \$8,000.00 to be met by subscriptions at the opening.

The present pastor, Rev. E. J. Stobo, has displayed energy and courage in pushing the work to completion, and many of the interior arrangements and improvements have been made at his suggestion to the Trustees. The plaster work was done by Mr. George Tugwell; the tinsmithing by Mr. John Kellar; the woodwork by Messrs. Robert Kilsby and Peter Newcombe, and the pews by Somerville and Chaffe of the Ontario Mills. The carpets and matting are from the dry-goods house of Mr. Thos. Stone, and Mr. C. Schwimler presented the handsome communion table.

The dedication will be held March 17, (1878)"

The light fixtures above mentioned burned gas and along each side of the church may still be seen five hinged panels which housed the control for each light.

William Street Baptist Church Dedication Service

March 17, 1878

"The dedicatory services of William Street Baptist Church on the occasion of the opening of their new audience room were conducted yesterday. A large congregation was present at the morning service. On the platform were Dr. Fyfe, President of the Woodstock Literary Institute, Rev. Dr. Davidson, secretary of Baptist Missions and the Pastor, Rev. E. J. Stobo.

The morning service was preached by Rev. Dr. Fyfe from the words; "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase," (1 Cor. 3, 6). Space forbids our giving the Rev. gentleman's excellent discourse. He dwelt chiefly on the success which attended Christ's cause in Apolistic times and the period close following them urged that it was the result of obedience to His divine commands and the preaching of "Christ Crucified" rather than mental culture and intellectual dissertations on doctrine so eloquently propounded in our day. He closed by urging upon the

congregation unity of action in all they did. "You have a good reason," said the preacher, "on this day you have met to dedicate a beautiful house to the service of God, to thank Him for the success which has attended to your efforts and think well from whence comes your strength. Here the ordinances, not of men's devising, but of Christ Himself, are to be observed and if these things are done with an eye single to His glory, He will honour your work. Cling to the principle that Christ is to be honoured here and God will grant you His blessing and guide you by His councel."

At the close of the service the pastor made a statement of the financial standing of the Church and called for subscriptions to the building fund which was generously responded to. The collection and subscriptions amounted to \$3,757.44.

At the afternoon service the Rev. Dr. Battisby, of St. Andrew's Church, occupied the pulpit. His text was Heb. 11;3, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation", which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him." The attendance at this service was quite as large as that of the morning. The subscriptions and collection of the afternoon amounted to \$275.00.

In the evening the Rev. Dr. Davidson preached an eloquent discourse from Acts VIII, 5-7. The house was filled to the ultimate capacity, chairs being placed in the aisles and every available space.

At the close of the service the ordinance of baptism was administered An excellent choir of ten voices, sang at each service. Miss Schomberg presided at the organ. The subscriptions of the evening made up the handsome total of \$4,450.00.

On Monday, March 18, a grand banquet was served by the ladies of the church. Concerning this the press reported as follows: "When all appetites had been satisfied, or should have been, the company adjourned to the audience room, where the intellectual feast was gathered on the platform. The addresses were good and kept the audience in the best of spirits until the sum of \$200.00 in subscriptions and 11 o'clock was reached. The total raised during the dedication services is \$5,700.00 Pastor Stobo occupied the chair and the choir discoursed some excellent music."

Such extensive building required funds and from the Registry Office we learn that a further loan was obtained in 1877 for \$6,000.00. In 1892 all existing mortgages were discharged and the debt consolidated as a single mortgage to the Chatham Loan and Savings Company, J. A. Walker, Manager, to the amount of \$4,166.00. The trustees at that time, 17 October were: Michael Houston, Barrister, James Rutherford, Physician, James Oldershaw, Gentleman; James Cornhill, Yeoman; John Wanless, Hardware Merchant and William Sloan, Yeoman. It is noted in this conveyance that the church was described only as William Street Baptist Church, the word "regular" having been dropped from the title.

THANKSGIVING DAY 1889

It was during the pastorate of Rev. J. J. Ross that further renovations were made in the church, the most important of which the putting in of our present beautiful stained glass windows. The church was dedicated on June 22, 1902 and for a description of the changes made we again go to the Canadian Baptist where we read as follows:

"On June 22nd we re-opened our church, after completing some important changes and improvements which had been in progress for the past six weeks costing about \$1,400.00. At our last annual meeting we decided to improve the building and for that purpose a committee was appointed to take the matter in hand. The committee, aided by our energetic pastor, Rev. J. J. Ross, took hold of the work in such a thorough, business-like manner, that today we have one of the handsomest churches in the west. It was a pleasant surprise to the large congregation which filled the church Sunday morning and evening, to enjoy the services conducted by Rev. A. L. McCrimmon, of Woodstock Baptist College.

In the work of renovating the building, a complete transformation has been affected. The exterior of the church repainted. The interior has been frescoed in a most beautiful manner; the woodwork throughout has been revarnished, the old carpets removed and new matting laid down in their place; the old fashioned windows have been taken out and stained glass windows of the most beautiful design have been put in their place; the exquisite colouring of the glass, combined with the rich colour of the decorations, produced a most delightful effect. The roof of the auditorium has been finished in a rich crimson and light coloured borders of elegant design and we believe that as our people re-entered their old home where they had been accustomed to worship for so many years and saw the change that had been wrought, they felt well pleased with the work of the committee.

Great assistance has been given by the Ladies' Aid Society to whose splendid efforts the church is indebted for their magnificent organ and the excellent musical service.

Pastor Ross graduated in 1898, and settled here the same year as pastor of this church."

The "magnificent organ" above referred to was the second that we had and was installed during the pastorate of Rev. J. Sowerby, who was here from 1891 to 1896.

It was in April, 1906, that the platform, located in the west end of the Sunday School room after the completion of the upstairs, was moved to its present location on the Park Street side.

In May, 1906, the organist, Mr. Frank Phelps, applied to the Board for the permanent installation of the new patent Tremolo of Mr. T. V. Challinor, which had been temporarily attached since the previous December. The request was granted, the cost being \$25.00.

On August 10, 1907, the Church accepted the offer of the Gas Company to install electric lights at a cost of \$500. Apparently this was paid by the Ladies Aid since the Lighting Committee was instructed to sell the old gas fixtures and turn the money over to them "to help pay for the electric lights."

In May, 1909, the church was reshingled with pine shingles at a cost on of \$393.00. This roof lasted until 1933 when in the midst of a depression we had to spend \$600.00 for a new roof of asphalt shingles, they being put on by Mr. W. Shaw.

Until 1919 the organ was pumped by hand but in June of that year the Ladies Aid installed a motor to do this work.

In March, 1921, Mr. Geo. Willard, Successor to Westman's, offered to take out the present furnaces and replace them for \$87.00. It was at this time that the furnaces were moved from the east end of the Sunday School to their present location.

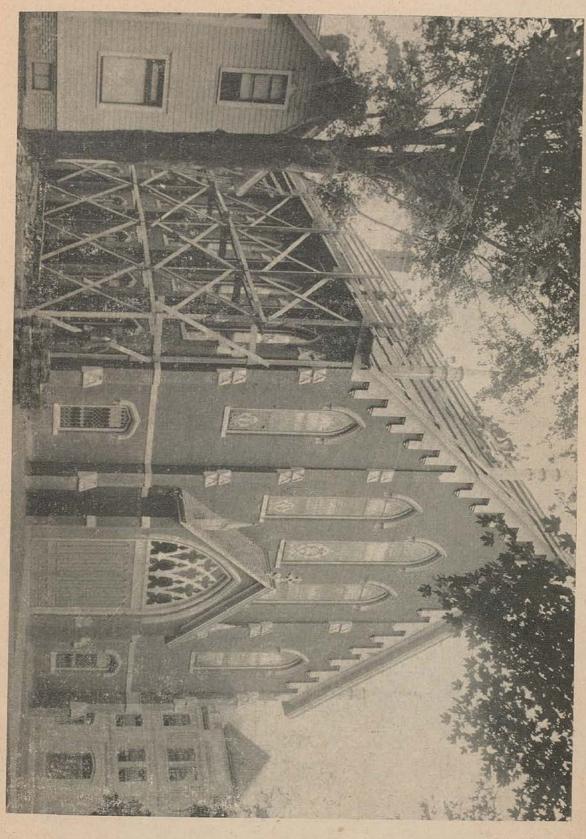
RENOVATIONS OF 1924

As early as September 1921, during the pastorate of Rev. J. T. Marshall, consideration was given to the alteration of the interior of the church auditorium. In March, 1924, Mr. Senior was asked to visit the church to put on a campaign to raise the necessary funds. On Wednesday, May 7th, Thursday, May 8th and again on Sunday, May 11, Mr. Senior spoke and as a result of his work a total of \$15,000.00, the sum needed was subscribed, and the cash and pledges turned over to the Building Committee composed of Mr. Ed. Wanless and Mr. W. G. Merritt. The contract was let two weeks later to Mr.Robert Lewies.

The work was started immediately and on Sunday, October 2, 1924, services were conducted by Rev. J. L. Sloat. in the new auditorium with Mrs. Franklin Legge, wife of O. Franklin Legge, builder of the new organ, soloist. On the following Tuesday evening Mr. Legge gave a recital on the organ. At the Advisory meeting held October 14, Mr. W. G. Merritt, Chairman of the Building Committee, outlined on the blackboard the details of cost amounting to slightly over \$20,000.00. Mr. J. E. Gray, Reconstruction Finance Chairman, advised that it would be necessary to raise about \$10,000.00 to settle all obligations, \$6,500.00 of this amount had already been arranged for and so it was authorized to borrow \$3,500.00.

The total cost is shown as \$20,766.92, of which the following major costs were: Seats \$4,100.00, Labour \$2,100.45, Carpets \$800.00, Organ \$5,200.00, Brass Railing \$205.00, Wiring and Fixtures \$925.82, Painting (inside \$679.70, outside \$55.00). The offering plates presently in use were donated by P. G. Piggott and Company in June 1925.

In October 1946, our stained glass windows were repaired and



those on the north side were covered with protective glass by the Artistic Company of Windsor at a cost of \$1,153.00.

The light fixtures installed in 1924 were replaced. This necessitated rewiring the auditorium to bring it up to the present requirements of Inspectors. The Ladies Aid paid the cost of the fixtures, a sum of \$1,085.40; the general church fund paid for the installation, a sum of \$561.05.

These beautiful new fixtures were officially presented to the Church by Mrs. Charles Guy. President of the Ladies Aid at that time.

In November 1945, authority was granted to install a stoker in the larger furnace at a cost of \$470.00, another obligation assumed by the Ladies Aid.

For the last few years the maintenance of our church property has been in charge of a House Committee, made up of three trustees who are responsible to the Advisory Board which in turn must refer any expenditure to the church body for approval.

We feel that at the present time we have one of the finest church auditoriums in the city. It is in good repair and no major expense is anticipated for some years. Our present site restricts further expansion and prevents the addition of those facilities which are considered necessary for our young people. Should the future make available additional space no doubt the officials will consider the erection of another hall for recreational activities, a ladies' parlour and both buildings supplied with heat from a single plant.

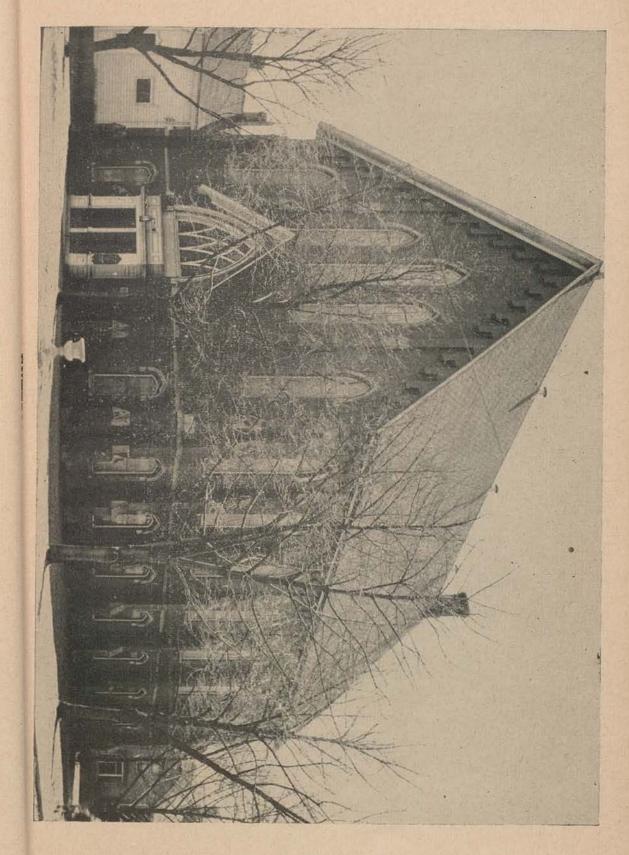
Our Parsonage

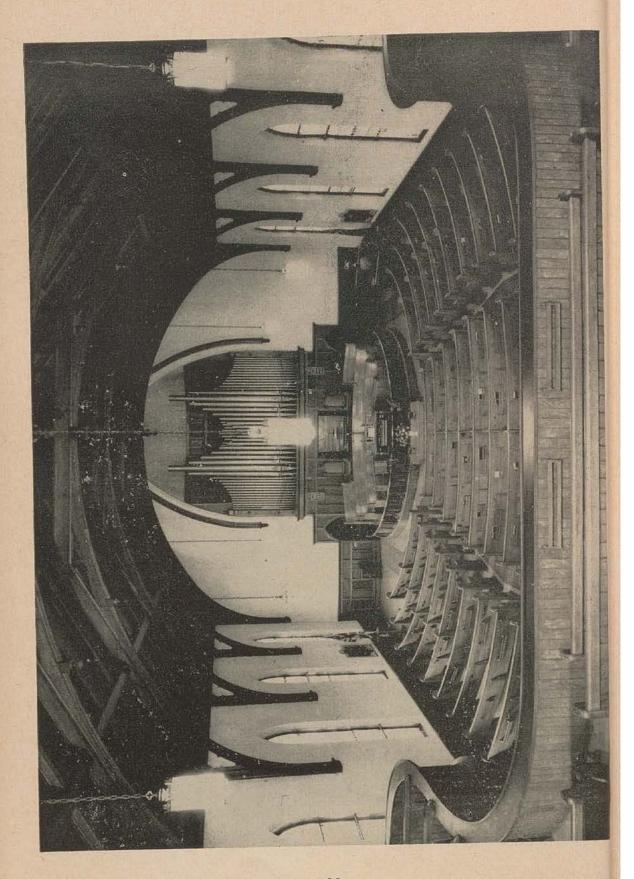
Previous to 1927 our pastors have lived in rented houses in various parts of the city. Some of the locations are known and recorded in the biographical sketches found elsewhere.

On July 11, 1927, the church purchased from Duncan Neilson the property at 112 Park Street which now serves as a parsonage. The initial cost of this house was \$5,700.00 cash. The sum of \$3,700.00 was available, the rest was borrowed at current rates. Immediately after the property was bought we spent \$1,300.00 in remodelling the interior, and had all in readiness by September of that year when Rev. Joseph Janes and family moved in.

The maintenance of the parsonage is still another responsibility undertaken by the Ladies Aid, whose annual report of 1940 showed all indebtedness had been discharged.

A Parsonage Committee made up of two members of that organization and one member of the Advisory Board are charged with responsibility of the upkeep of the parsonage.





Memorials

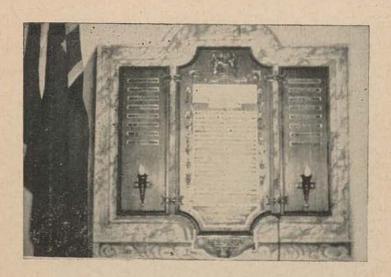
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One of the highlights of the church's activities for 1944 was the installation of the Honour Rolls in the church in commemoration of those who served in the armed forces in World War I and II.

The efforts of the committee, composed of Rev. H. W. Stewart, Messrs. A. J. Dodman, P. A. Dick, E. Geddes and W. J. Hampton, were brought to a climax, Sunday, October 1st, when a special dedication service was held, with His Honour Lieutenant-Governor Albert Matthews and Mrs. Matthews as our special guests. Other guests were relatives of service men and women and representatives of all the various patriotic bodies on the community. Members of the Canadian Legion formed a Guard of Honour for the Lieutenant Governor's party.

The auditorium was filled and though the weather was perfect and the service very inspiring, a touch of sadness pervaded the atmosphere when it was known that Rev. H. Stewart who had worked so hard to insure the success of the service, could not, owing to ill health, be present.

There are 63 names on the World War I Tablet and 98 on that of World War II.



WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

Chatham Baptist Church

ROLL OF HONOUR

Of those who served in the War 1914-1918 from the Baptist Church

KILLED IN ACTION OR DIED OF WOUNDS

Joseph Fletcher Jr. James Heather Samuel Heather Sr. Samuel Heather Jr. Marvin Henry

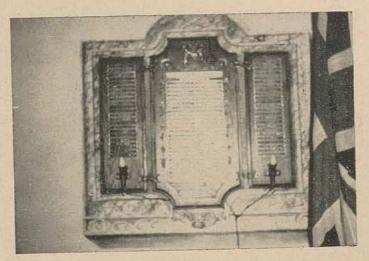
Arthur S. Reeve Victor Marshall Ivan Wilson George Woods

THOSE WHO ALSO SERVED 1914-1918

Howard Balmer Tack Beardall Alfred Blackburn James Burgess George Cameron Horace Chandler Alfred Coles William Coles R. J. Cullimore R. Daniels Chauncey Depew Ernest Diggins Elliott Dunn Arthur Dye Joseph Fletcher Sr. William Flook John Ferrin I. Fisher

Arthur Gale Godfrey Gale George Gaudion Percy Glassford Samuel Haines Ralph Harwood Frenk Hatton Robert Hinman S. J. R. Hood Cecil Hyslop Irvin Kennedy Morrell McDonald George Mann George W. Marshall Alfred Tooms William McMillan Stanley Merritt Walter Moody Morden Nichol

Ross Nichol William Nichol Frederick Pitt Roy Reid Don Richardson Arthur Sanderson Frank Simmonds Frank Snyder William Tewksbury Norman Thomson Stanley Thomson Claud Tiffin Arthur Toon A. Wheeler Grant Wilson Elmer Winters Alfred Wrigley



WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Chatham Baptist Church

RECORD OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF CANADA DURING THE WAR

1939-1945

Who were connected with the Chatham Baptist Church by being;

(1) Church members

(2) Adherents of the Church(3) Sunday School Members

4) Members of families who were Church members or adherents.

KILLED OR MISSING

Wayne Ankorn (Killed in action May 23, 1944) Jack Rickard (Missing, presumed killed) J. St. Dennis (Killed in action)

THOSE WHO ALSO SERVED

William Abraham John Ambrose William Ambrose Joseph Anderson Harvey Baker Roy Bartram W. Bramwell

W. Bramwell Beardall Donald Black Dorothy Blackburn Donald Blount Jack Booth James Booth Richard Bradford Earl Brown Kenneth Brown Robert Brown Wilfred Brown Marvin Burke Alger Burtch Charles Burtch Dorothy Burtch Clayton Carey Jack Challinor William Chandler Lester Comeau George Congdon Donald Copeland lack Custance Chester Dawson Max Dunlop Elliot Dunn

Arthur Dve Ross Eberlee Helen Farrell Francis Fullerton Harry Gillman William Gillman William Greenslade lack Greenslade Lloyd Groombridge Jack Harvey Stanley Haydon Harold Higgins lack Howe Jim Hunt George Kett Roy Kett Leo Labonty Cyril Lacev Arthur Leroy Murray Logan Ross Logan Ernest Mawley William Mercer R. Murray Merritt Jack Moon James Morgan Robert McAlorum Jerry McVeigh Ed. Nagle Laura Newcome Sue Patterson Thelma Pearson

William Phipps Warren Peck Charles Phipps William Poile Jean Prevett Alma Reaume Cecil Reader Evan Rosser Fred Sanders Fred Sanderson Fred Sargent Harold Seaton William Shaw Harold Shaw Russell Sheffield Gordon Slater Robert Stewart Hawley Teeter William Terry Kingsley Terry Ed. Tickner Leonard Tickner Walter Tickner Rolfe Wachsmuth Fred Wales Lyle Wanless Mary Wanless Ben Warner Thomas Wilcox William Wolfe Kenneth Wood Norma Wright

The J. W. Mann Memorial



After the evening service on Sunday, June 3, 1945, the J. W. Mann family presented a large painting of, "Jesus praying at Gethsemane" by Mrs. Pansy Mann Taylor, a granddaughter of Mrs. Albert Mann, to the church. This painting was a gift in loving memory of Mrs. Albert Mann who was baptized in the Thames River by Rev J. L. Campbell in 1871 and who was a much beloved member of the church for 49 years.

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The Pheobe Shaw Memorial

In 1948 it was decided that certain money offered to the church by Mr. Wesley Shaw for a memorial to his wife, should be used to install hearing aids, these to be known as the "Phoebe Shaw Memorial."

Church Broadcast

C.F.C.O., owned and operated by Mr. Jack Beardall, Chatham, pioneered in church broadcasting in Southwestern Ontario when, on the occasion of the Anniversary Services on November 24, 1929, both morning and evening services were broadcast from our church. The Choir was under the direction of Mr. Stewart Douglas.

It is noteworthy that in 1927. Rev. J. L. Sloat was the first or-

dained minister to preach over the air waves at that Station.

In November 1931, permission was granted to C.F.C.O. to in-

stall permanent wires in the church for broadcast purposes.

For some years now the Chatham Baptist Church has maintained a schedule of five broadcasts a year. Often members of the church sponsor one of these in memory of a loved one who has been called Home.

The Choir

Undoubtedly, one of the greatest contributions to an impressive church service, other than the Minister, is that of the choir. By the hymns and anthems rendered they are able effectively to bring harmony between the spoken msssage and the minds of the audience assembled. Down through the years we have been favoured with a group of loyal men and women who have given of their time and talent twice a Sunday to the ministry of song.

In the early days of the church, many references are made to Mr. James Cleve, a vocal teeacher, who led the Baptist Choir. The newspapers of those days carried many accounts of programmes given on Sunday, of recitals staged to raise funds or on the occasion of a "soiree" being held. Mr. Cleeve was respected highly for his musical ability and on one occasion he was the recipient of a handsome gift from a Presbyterian Church of the town in appreciation of his labours with them.



MR. AND MRS. PETER McINTYRE

In 1880, while Dr. Davidson was here, Peter McIntyre was the Choir Leader and his wife accompanied on the organ. Mr. Geo. H. Wanless contributed the following photograph of Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre and directs our attention to Mrs. McIntyre's extremely long hair, for which she was well remembered.

Following Mrs. McIntyre at the organ was Mr. Charles Dunkley.

James Cleeve, of whom mention has been made already returned to Chatham and our present church, after a lengthy absence and led the choir for a few years. He was still a large man with a fine baritone voice.

In 1889 Mrs. James, a sister of Mrs. Mae Cooper who for many years was soprano soloist at First Presbyterian Church, was choir director while Miss Howe presided at the organ.

In April 1895, Mr. Dave Moore led the choir with a clarinet while Mr. T. V. Challinor was the organist. He was followed by Miss Haines as choir leader and in 1903 Miss Blanche Baxter assumed these duties; Mr. Challinor remaining the organist, until succeeded in 1905 by Mr. Frank Phelps. It was in that year that Miss Helen Carter took charge of the choir.

The next name that appears as choir leader was John Reeve who in November 1906, took up residence in Port Arthur and then Miss Olive Richards was soloist. In 1907 Miss M. Tyhurst (Mrs. Ed. Wanless) became soloist. In 1909 Mrs. Myers was choir leader and soloist and was followed in May 1911, by Miss Lulu Thompson as leader with Miss Tyhurst again assisting until Miss Gott was appointed in 1912.

In 1916 Mr. Phelps moved to Windsor and Mr. J. L. Challinor, son of T. V. Challinor, became organist for approximately one year when he was succeeded by Miss Adel Guilds. In 1922 Miss Margaret Winegarden was given a summer appointment at the organ and was permanently appointed in September of that year.

Many will remember Mr. Harry Horsted, our choir leader for the period 1914 to April 1919 when he handed over to Mr. Harris Moon who continued until 1929 and then returned for about seven months in 1940.

It was during the period when Mr. Stewart Douglas was in charge of the choir, September 19 to May 1940, that our church pioneered in broadcasting its service, the exact date being November 24, 1929.

From January 1941, until early in 1944, Mr. Arthur Howe was our capable director. On October 1, 1944, the day of the unveiling of the War Memorials, Mr. W. G. Burton (Sam) became leader and stayed until he removed from the city in November 1946. For brief period Mrs. W. B. Beardall, our organist, also led the choir, but the latter duty was then taken over by Miss Norah Ingram, our present director.

On April 23, 1943, the choir discarded the traditional black gowns for new purple ones, the gift of Mr. H. G. Hodges.

In the Spring of 1949 our choir director, Miss Norah Ingram, organized a girls and boys choir which now numbers 40 voices.

During the years there have been many of whom special mention should be made for their voluntary efforts. One of these is our present tenor soloist, Stanley A. Gwilt, who has served faithfully for 35 years without any remuneration other than the joy of singing.

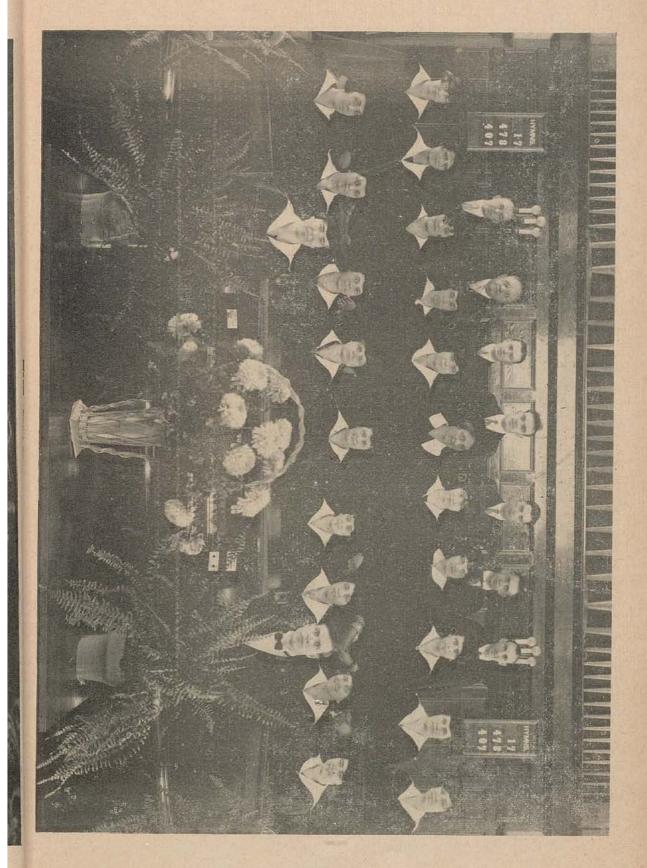
On the occasion of Mrs. W. B. Beardall's completion of twenty-five years of service at the organ, the church presented her with a Cameo brooch.

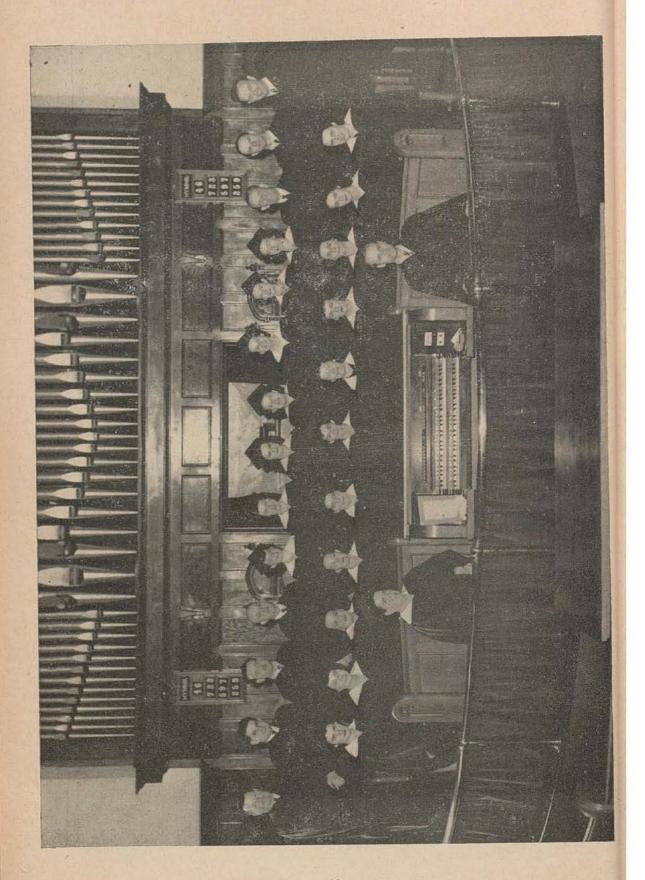
It was considered a privilege and pleasure in the days gone by for a young man to pump the organ, but in June 1919, this task disappeared when the Ladies' Aid installed an electric motor.

A complete list of those who have served in the choir would be an almost impossible task. The following pictures of the choir members at certain periods are inserted for the revival of memories. Of the choir of 1887, only two members are still alive, Dolly Green (Mrs. S. B. Arnold) and her sister, Etta Green (Mrs. C. Dunn).









THE CHOIR OF 1887

Back row, left to right—J. C. Wanless, Mr. McAlpine (Director), Mr. Galbreth, Alex McTavish, Mr. Ewin.

Middle row-Paul Oliver (Mrs. Lane), Sarah Milner (Mrs. McKay) T. V. Challinor, Annie Milner (Mr. J. Oldershaw).

Front Row-Jemima Williams, Emma Green (Mrs. W. G. Merritt), Minnie Colby (Mrs. Little), Dolly Green (Mrs. S. B. Arnold), Alice Cornhill, Lily Green, George Green.

Kneeling-Etta Green (Mrs. C. Dunn), Eliza Oliver (Mrs. Snook).

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THE CHOIR 1905

Back row, left to right .-

Men-Edmund Wanless, George Wanless, Jack Stover, T. V. Challinor, F. Byram, James Darling, J. Carter.

Women-Edith Merrill, Eva Crombie, Clara Burr (Nagle), Miss Buxton, Maud Doolittle (Wanless), Lou Cross (Tomlinson), Laura Bowers (Hoffmen).

Middle Row—Daisy Carter, Belle Cameron (Ingram), Helen Carter, Director, Frank Phelps, Organist, Myrtle Fielder, Violet Carter. Front Row—Velma Stone, Lizzie Cropp, Lizzie Cameron (Clements), Maude Tanton (Ward), Louis Challinor.

++5/3++

THE CHOIR 1929

Back Row, left to right—Walter J. Hampton, Robert Brown, Stanley A. Gwilt, Harris Chappell, James Cooper, Mr. Porter, Frank Phillips.

Middle Row—Mildred Wright (Mack), Letta Hales (Thompson), Phyllis Wanless, Mrs. J. Cooper, Mrs. C. Arnold, Mrs. S. Clements, Ada Dye (Goldsmith), Charlotte Jackson, Mrs. E. Wemp, Mrs. Wallace Logan, Alice Hales (Summers).

Front Row-Mrs. M. J. Baxter, Mrs. J. Janes, Mrs. G. Spence, Mrs. L. Kerr, Mrs. Wilkie, Irene Brown (Hampton), Mrs. A. J. Dodman, Irene Winegarden (Cofell).

Mrs. W. B Beardall, Organist Harris Moon, Director

THE CHOIR 1946

Back Row, left to right—Charles Burtch, Ronald Bock, Stanley Haydon, Donna Campbell, Phyllis Greenslade, Isabelle Haines, Mary Lou Hampton, Carolyn Logan, Alice Burton, Mildred Mack, Stewart Douglas, Stanley Gwilt, Leonard Ward.

Front Row-Shirley Gwilt, Maxine Morgan, Gladys Burtch, Dorothy Ingram, Irene Cofell, Nora Ingram, Marion Merritt, Eva Zivich, Margaret Smythe, Velma Dunlop.

Margaret Beardall, Organist, W. G. Burton, Director

The Ladies' Aid

The existence of any church without the co-existence of a Ladies' Aid is almost inconceivable. We can read of their activities from the very earliest days, sometimes under another name but ever present carrying on worthwhile projects for the good of the church. As early as 1859, newspaper items of "tea meetings" and "soirees" are to be found, and it is fairly certain that our "Aid" was making itself felt before that date, providing much needed funds for additions to church property. The Ladies' Aid Society has ever aimed to be a true "aid" to our church, always willing to assist the Pastor and the Deacons in every way possible.

The Ladies' Aid has organized and carried out many activities that have eased the financial burdens every church must face. Some of these are: the purchase of the first individual Communion Service; purchasing carpet for the church; buying both an organ and a piano for the church auditorium, and paying for their upkeep. Other help would include such things as the purchase of new Hymn books; an electric motor to pump the previous organ; the installation of a stoker and our present light fixtures. The Ladies have invested large sums of money in decorating the basement, including the renovation of the kitchen and the purchase of excellent equipment therein. Besides giving substantial Anniversary gifts, the Ladies' Aid assumed the indebtedness on the parsonage, now duly discharged and have obligated themselves to carry out any ncessary repairs to the same.

Not only has financial help been given within the church but also to other worthwhile causes such as assisting with sewing for the Red Cross, sending boxes overseas to boys in service and helping at the blood clinic during the war. Any profits made during World War II were re-invested in Canada's future through the purchase of War Saving Crtificates.

Memories have not yet grown dim of the work of such faithful leaders as: Mrs. Bensen, Mrs. Mounteer, Mrs. James Cornhill, Mrs. W. G. Merritt, Mrs. H. G. Hodges, Mrs. A. P. Smith, Mrs. W. D. Ingram, Mrs. H. V. Cameron, Mrs. T. W. Poile, Mrs. Ray Mugridge, Mrs. A. J. Dodman, Mrs. Roy Reid, Mrs. W. I. Hampton, Mrs. Ed. Wanless, Mrs. Clarence Dunlop, Mrs. R. M. Merritt, Mrs. C. R. Guy and Mrs. Frank Dodds.

The Aid, for a number of years, has been divided into three circles, making it easier to reach those residing in different districts.

All down through the years there has existed a fine spirit of co-operation which has made the work a pleasant task for all concerned.

The Ladies' Aid goes forward with happy memories of the past, a feeling of work well done, and faces the future with the same willingness to serve our church whenever the need may arise.

CENTENNIAL YEAR OFFICERS

U D 11	XX F I D II
Honorary President	Mrs. Frank Dodds
President	Mrs. Geo. Lanning
Vice Presidents	Mrs. C. Dunlon
	Mrs. Geo. Wanless
	Mrs. W. C. McCorvie
Connetnati	
Secretary	Mrs. Ray Mugridge
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. M. J. Baxter
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Charles Humphrey
Treasurer	Mrs. A. I. Dodman
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs R M Merritt
Parsonage Committee	Mrs T W Doile
- aroundge Committee	
D . C .	Mrs. W. J. Logan
Buying Committee	Mrs. J. A. M. Hay
	Mrs. R. M. Merritt
Devotional Leader	Mrs. Charles Titus
Flower Committee	
Pianist	Mrs. W. B. Beardall
Advisory Committee	
Advisory Committee	Wirs. I. W. Poile
	Mrs. S. B. Arnold

Senior Mission Circle

The Senior Women's Mission Circle was organized during the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Campbell while he was in the old church at the corner of King and William Streets. The responsibility for its formation is attributed to Mrs. Campbell, the first President and to Mrs. Verrall and Mrs. Williams. Among the early members were Mrs. Milner, Mrs. Frederick, Mrs. Albert Mann and Mrs. McIntyre.

During the years many faithful Christian women have devoted their efforts to this work. Special mention might be made of Mrs. Hatton who reported at the December meeting of 1920 that she had been a member for thirty-two years. Others who have laboured through the years are: Mrs. Hoig, Mrs. D. H. McDonald, Mrs. M. Houston, Mrs. J. Oldershaw, Mrs. W. H. Bensen, Mrs. J. J. Ross, Mrs. E. Gregg, while on leave from Burma; Mrs. H. Macaulay, Mrs. W. G. Merritt, Miss Lily Green, Mrs. J. A. Marshall, Mrs. J. H. Sloat, Mrs. H. V. Cameron, Mrs. W. J. Wilson, Mrs. F. Burtch, Mrs. A. P. Smith, Mrs. J. Janes, Mrs. W. D. Ingram and Mrs. J. A. Black.

In 1941, while Mrs. W. D. Ingram was President, the Women's Missionary Convention of Ontario and Quebec met

in our church. This was a worthy undertaking and proved to be a great blessing to all concerned. Over 300 delegates attended from all parts of Ontario and Quebec. It was then that it was learned that the Chatham Circle was the only one supporting four Bible Women in India.

Since the organization of the Foreign Mission Society in 1876 and the Home Mission Society in 1884, money received, all of which is voluntary giving, no money-raising activities being undertaken, has been divided equally between these two bodies.

Special mention must be made of the fine service of Miss Grace Houston who for 45 years served as Treasurer of the Circle. In recognition of her splendid record she was presented with a Dominion Life Member Certificate and pin. Her faithful and keen interest in the mission work has been an inspiration to all. Others who have received the Dominion Life Membership and pin are as follows: Mrs. J. A. Black, the late Mrs. W. C. Blackburn, Mrs. H. H. Winegarden, Mrs. A. J. Keats and Mrs. W. D. Ingram

For the past six years the Circle has had as its President Mrs. J. A. Black, who was brought up in a Home Mission Parsonage and is well acquainted with all phases of the work of

missions.

Besides preparing comfort boxes, hospital supplies, and the supporting of Bible Women, the Senior Mission Circle has mothered two junior groups, the Mary Wilson Mission Auxiliary and the Bensen Mission Band.

The church is deeply grateful to those earnest Christian women who down through the years have heard the call of the Master, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." May strenght be given to others to follow in their train.

CENTENNIAL YEAR OFFICERS

OLITTELIA	
Honorary President President	IVIIS. I. A. DIACK
1st Vice President	WITS VV. J. Hampton
2nd Vice President	Mrs. O. M. Wachsmuth
C	IVITS. 11. 11. IADD
Honorary Treasurer	Miss Grace Houston
Treasurer	Mrs. I. A. M. Hav
Pianist	Mrs. W. B. Beardall
Corresponding Secy.	Mrs Guy Brown
Corresponding Secy	Mrs D Dunlon
Inspirational Leader	Miss Clara Sainsbury
White Cross Convenor	Mrs T W Doile
Bible Women	M. W. I Hampton
	Mrs. W. J. Hampton
	Mrs. H. H. Winegarden
	Mrs. A. J. Keats
	Mrs. Geo. Terry
	Mrs. Wallace Logan



The Mary Wilson Mission Auxiliary

The first Mission work among the young women of the Baptist Church was carried on by Mrs. W. E. Matthews when she organized the Phylathea Sunday School Class. After her departure from Chatham in 1909 this work was carried on by Mrs. W. G. Merritt and Mrs. Andrew Thompson. This, however not being an organized mission circle, the need for such a society was met in 1927 by the organization of a group of young women under the leadership of a former minister's wife, Mrs. I. L. Sloat. Mrs. W. J. Wilson was chosen as her able assistant in this fine undertaking. After Mrs. Sloat's departure from the city, Mrs. Wilson continued as leader. Under her guidance the Young Women's Mission Circle gradually assumed the responsibilities of preparing and carrying out its programme. The circle continued under the leadership of various Presidents, holding meeting each month with topics about Mission activities, and special speakers on furlough from India and Bolivia were invited to address the circle whenever possible. Annual Thank-Offering meetings have been held, and an attempt is made to meet the allotment as laid down by the Board each year. Miss Ina Wanless has continued in her capacity as Treasurer of the Society since its inception. There are also several other members who have belonged since the beginning of the group.

In November 1945, the circle chose as its name, "The Mary Wilson Mission Auxiliary" thereby honouring Mrs. W. J. (Mary) Wilson who devoted so many years to its guidance and gave most freely of her time toward the work of the group. Since that time the circle has increased, not only in members, but also in the accomplishment of its objectives. Mrs. Wilson, having recently returned from an extended stay in Toronto, is continuing to act as Counsellor, and it is the earnest hope of all members that they will go forward and do all they possibly can to help the cause of Missions both at Home and Abroad, and that the Circle will continue to be a worthwhile organization of our church.

Records reveal that the following have been made Life Members: Mildred Mack, Vera Daugherty, Ina Wanless, Gladys

Patterson, Norah Ingram, Dorothy Ingram, Ethel Keats Stewart, Margaret Smythe, Marie Eberlee.

CENTENNIAL YEAR OFFICERS

Honorary President	Miss Marie Eberlee
Dresident	
1st Vice President	
and Vice President	Mrs. Lloyd Darnes
Secretary	Mrs. Harold Roach
Assistant Secretary	
Treasurer	Miss Ina Wanless
Devotional Leader	Mrs. William Stenton
Counsellor	Mrs. W. J. Wilson
Pianist	Mrs. Harry Daugherty
Press Reporter	Mrs. I. V. Cofell
Card Convenor	Mrs. Frank Perks
Telephone Committee	Mrs. Garfield Black
Telephone Committee	Mrs. Frank Perks
	Miss Marion Richards

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The Bensen Mission Band

The exact date of the formation of this important group is not known but in 1895 a band existed; the first newspaper clipping, quoted elsewhere, appeared in 1897 at which time a young man was being educated in India. The name of Mrs. S. C. Walker is associated with the early days of the band.

In 1902, during the pastorate of Rev. J. J. Ross, Mrs. H. V. Cameron became leader, a position she held for 15 years. About 1910 Miss Grace Houston assisted Mrs. Cameron and then assumed full charge when Mrs. Cameron became President of the Senior Mission Circle. At one time there were only four members, Margaret and Marion Winegarden, Glyn Merritt and one other girl, name not known, but soon the members began to increase until 60 children were enrolled.

After Rev. and Mrs. Roy Bensen left for India the Band became known as the Bensen Mission Band, in honour of one who went to a mission field from our church.

Meetings were as near like those of the Senior Circle as possible, all officers being members of the band. It was found that the most suitable time for meetings was after Sunday School. The band became a training school not only for the children but also for the leaders, "learning together" why missionaries are needed. The band studied hard about the work in different lands,

the missionaries and their stations. Once a year a missionary play was presented and in February there was a Valentine party to which the mothers were invited.

In addition to Mrs. H. V. Cameron and Miss G. Houston, the following are known to have been leaders: Miss L. Green, Mrs. S. Miller, Miss Clara Sainsbury. Mrs. A. J. Dodman, Miss Ethel Keats, Mrs. W. D. Ingram, Mrs. W. Logan, Mrs. W. B. Beardall, Mrs. J. W. White, Mrs. Proctor Dick, Mrs. M. E. Morgan, Mrs. R. M. Merritt, Mrs. H. W. Stewart and Mrs. Ella MacKenzie.

Some of those who are known to have been active in the band are: Bill Poile, Norine Hodges, Irene Winegarden, Charles Burtch, Marjorie Dodman, Edythe Burtch, Bill Launder, Raymond and Kenneth Miller, Ruth Mugridge, Letta Hales, Gladys Poag, Margaret Brown, Winnifred Brown, Mary Ann Brown, Bill Phipps, Jack Challinor, Norma Jack, Clara Allen, Helen Rickard, Clarence Jackson, Helen Abraham, Marion Abraham, Ruth Abraham, Edna Abraham, Margaret Launder, Marjorie Coristine, Maxine Morgan, Pauline Toon, Margaret MacKenzie, Mary Wanless, Francis Warner, Norma Wright, Carolyn Logan, Audrey Sangster, Mary Anne Beardall, Betty Lou Lanning and Joan Lanning.

CENTENNIAL YEAR OFFICERS

Honorary President	Peggy Campbell
President	Nancy Sargent
Vice President	Patty Campbell
Secretary	David Dick
Assistant Secretary	Shirley Sangster
Treasurer	Kay Daugherty
Assistant Treasurer	Arlene Stoner
Devotional Leaders	Dick Gwilt
	David Burtch
Pianist	Brenda Patterson

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R. C. Bensen

Roy Carlyle Bensen was born in Chatham, December 8, 1884, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bensen.

Roy was educated at Central School and the Chatham Collegiate Institute, following which he entered McMaster where he obtained his B.A. degree in 1906 and his B. Th. in 1908. It was on May 25, 1908, that our only Missionary was ordained in his home church; Rev. W. E. Matthews, Deacons Oldershaw and McCaulay were official delegates. During his career Rev. Roy Bensen received his M.A. from McMaster, in 1923, his B.D. in 1923 from University of Chicago and his Ph. D. in 1930.



REV. R. C. BENSEN

In August of 1908 Rev. Roy Bensen conducted services in our church while Rev. W. E. Mathews was on vacation and that same month he married Anita Waters, also a graduate from McMaster. In October 1908 Rev. and Mrs. Bensen went to India. During their first period in India a daughter, now Mrs. Frank Menagh, of Sudbury and a son Harold was born. Although Harold was very delicate at first through tender care he grew to be a robust lad and later was captain of his college football team. He is now a doctor in Hamilton.

The "Bensens" stayed in India until 1926 except for a furlough from 1915—1919 during which Rev. Roy Bensen was pastor

at Bloor Street Baptist (Yorkminster) for one and a half years and for the time he was a Chaplain at Sussex, N.B., with the rank of Major.

On his return he became President of McLaurin High School at Cocanada and Manager of the Teacher Training School. He was also editor of the Teluga newspaper and was elected a member of the municipal council of Cocanada and a member of the district educational council.

On his return to Canada in 1926 Rev. Roy Bensen went to University of Chicago and at the same time was pastor at Batavia, Ill.

In 1930 Dr. Bensen joined the Staff of McMaster as professor in the department of philosophy and the next year headed the department.

Dr. Roy Carlyle Bensen died in Hamilton October 1, 1941, the funeral being held from the University. Prof. New gave the address, "paying grateful tribute to the life of his colleague and friend. He recalled that as an undergraduate he had been a rugby, hockey, and track star, a keen debater and a brilliant student who had sacrificed an opportunity to become a Rhodes Scholar that he might carry out his intention to proceed to India as a Missionary. A man of courage and of unusual capacity for friendship, he also had an abiding faith in a personal God."

Mrs. Benson survived until September 3, 1949, when she died at the home of her son Harold in Hamilton.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Bensen are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in that city.

The Sunday School

The establishment of our Sunday School coincides with that of our church body. In the very earliest times, before a building was erected, the children attended services in the home or in the open with their parents after which the sermon was interpreted to the children. Bible teaching was a part of the family worship period after the evening meal.

Following the death of his father in 1832, young Duncan McPhail, of whom mention has been made tried to hold nucleus of a Sunday School together. During the pastorate of Elder Campbell a small Sunday School existed but the attendance followed the same pattern as that of the church from 1859 to 1868. The new life instilled into the church by Rev. J. L. Campbell saw an accompanying increase in the Sunday School enrolment.

Before the completion of the audience room in our present church, the majority of the teaching took the form of instruction in large groups. Later four classrooms were used and Mrs. J. E. Oldershaw took charge of the Primary with Miss Clara Sainsbury as her assistant. Three of the Superintendents of this period were Deacon Williams, Mr. Mellish and Mr. Macaulay.

In the days before Chatham had a public library, a Sunday School Library, with Mr.William Sainsbury in charge, was set up in the east corner of the basement and books were in great demand. This subsequently disappeared and glass fronted doors were installed. The need for classrooms was caused by the reorganization of the Sunday School into various age groups for instruction. For many years the Pastor's study was located in the west corner of the basement but it was moved upstairs to allow more space for the small children. In 1906 the platform was movfrom the west end to the Park Street side and then at a later date was enlarged. It was in February 1919, that the present lavatories were completed.

The Annual Sunday School Picnic was a big event in the life of the scholars. This often took the form of a boat trip on the "City of Chatham" or the "Ossifrage" to Belle Isle and Detroit or Walpole Island or, a picnic to Government Park via the Erie and Huron Railway to Erieau and thence by boat to the Park. After the building of the Chatham, Wallaceburg and Lake Erie electric road, many happy youngsters and grown ups had a pleasant outing at Erie Beach.

Every year also brought the Christmas Concert, though in early days this event was held on New Year's night, it has for some time been in the week before Christmas.

After the amalgamation of the two churches, Miss Lily Green was in charge of the Primary for many years, and was succeeded by Mrs. W. B. Beardall. For the past twenty years our Primary has been under the capable direction of Mrs. J. L. Challinor.

In addition to those already mentioned the following are

known to have acted as Superintendents of the Sunday School: Matthew Side, W. G. Merritt, Stanley Miller, Stanley Gwilt, Earle Geddes, Proctor Dick. Manning Morgan, Charles Burtch and Lyle Patterson.

No doubt the success of our Sunday School in the past has been due to the many faithful workers who have given their time and talent to this important phase of our church life. Special mention should be made of Miss Clara Sainsbury who has been teaching for 58 years and is still active.

The greatest gain during the past year has been in the boys' class under Mr. A. Jackson. The school continues to feed the church and our pastor has baptized four boys since his arrival.

The members of the school voted for the holding the sessions in the morning all year around and the attendance is now up to 130. The goal for Centennial Year is 150. A new S.V.E. projector has been purchased and sound films are used on special occasions for teaching purposes.

Our greatest need today is more and more good teachers. It is felt that there is an excellent opportunity for additional young people to assume the responsibility for a class of teen-egd boys or girls.

CENTENNIAL YEAR OFFICERS

Superintendent	Lyle Patterson
Assistant Superintendent	Proctor Dick
Treasurer	Garfield Black
SecretariesFred	

The Cradle Roll

One of the important organizations in our church is the Cradle Roll. As far as can be determined this department had its inception about 1906 and has functioned continually ever since.

The purpose of the Cradle Roll is to enroll at birth, any children whose parents come into the fellowship of the church by reason of church membership or transfer from other communities.

A record is kept of birthdays and visitations made at least once a year. A Dedication Service is held each year on Children's Day generally in the month of June, when parents present their children for dedication and promise to bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. At this service, also, children who have reached the age of four years are graduated from the Cradle Roll to the Beginners Department of the Sunday School.

The Cradle Roll is supervised by a Suprintendent as a part

of the Sunday School..

Superintendents who have served since 1906 are as follows;

1906 — 1919 Miss Clara Sainsbury 1920 — 1924 Mrs. W. J. Wilson 1925 — 1927 Mrs. E. Wanless 1928 — 1931 Mrs. C. Lacey 1932 — 1950 Mrs. W. J. Hampton

The B. Y.P. U.

The Baptist Young People's Union of the Convention of Ontario and Quebec will, in 1951, celebrate the 60th Anniversary of its founding. Although no records are available for the years prior to 1905, it seems rasonable to assume that Young People's activities were carried on in Chatham Baptist Church for many years before 1905, for the minutes of that year show 40 meetings were held with an average attendance of 48. Th following year the average attendance had risen to 91. While down through the years the money which has been raised has been used for various purposs, an annual grant has always been made towards the support of a student in India. In 1931, \$800 was sent to the Interprovincial Cabinet; this has now risen to \$25.00.

In 1943 Miss Norah Ingram, donated to the Unions of the Convention, in memory of her father, the late David Ingram, a trophy to be awarded annually for proficiency in various departments of B.Y. work. After many years of keen competition the Trophy was this, the Centennial Year of the church, awarded to the Chatham B.Y.P.U.

B.Y.P.U. has always been an integral part of the life of the Chatham Baptist Church and is our hope and prayer that it may continue to be so through the next hundred years of Baptist work in Chatham.



David Ingram Memorial Trophy

The 1950 Executive

President Murray French

Vice-President Mrs. L. E. Snobelen

Secretary-Treasurer Audrey French

Stewardship Commission Norman Thomson Helen Gwilt

Service Commission Mary Anne Beardall

Devotional Commission Betty Slater Jean Edwards

Fellowship Commission Margaret MacKenzie Douglas Jewell

PACK NO 8 BROWNIES

"We're the Brownies-here's our aim Lend a hand and play the game."

Four years ago this October, 1950, this little song was first heard in our Sunday School. It was that Fall that seven little girls met together for the first meeting of Pack No. 8 Brownies under the leadership of Miss Helen Pierce and Miss Dorothy Balmer. Since then the Pack has steadily grown and some thirty-five girls have come and gone through the Pack. The present lead-

ers are Mary Ann Beardall and Joan Lanning.

"Brownies" are a junior group or "little sisters" of the Girl Guide movement. Girls may join at eight years and go on to Guides at 11. They have laws to learn, two groups of tests to pass and special badges for which they may try. In our Pack, pecial features have been a summer hike and the annual Mother's Tea presented in June, at which a programme is presented, work displayed and the Brownies serve tea all on their own. Many mothers and friends attend each year.

Pack No. 8 is sponsored by the Sunday School of this church, is helped on the occasion of the Annual Tea by a committee of three from the Ladies' Aid; and is self-supporting—funds being obtained from weekly fairy gold collections and the annual cookies sale for which the Brownies have sold from 225 to 250 boxes each year.

While most of the Pack belong to our Sunday School they are proud of the fact that they have had girls from the lewish and the Catholic Churches meet with them as sister Brownies. They are truly "sisters."

NO. 8 WOLF CUB PACK

This Pack was reactivited in 1947 by Max Dunlop with John Wardell as assistant.

At the start there were only four boys and then came summer, but in September more joined so that by the following Spring

there was a full pack of 24 boys.

In June 1948 the Pack tried an experiment of holding a weekend Cub Camp at the Scout Camp at Clearville on the shores of Lake Erie. This was a success and now they have the honour of being the first Cub Pack to do so with the result that it is an annual event. An average of sixteen boys and six adults attend.

The Cubs attend Church parade in a body each year and

help sell apples on Scout Apple Day

The training programme teaches the boys to be obedient and helpful at home and away from home. Games give competition either with others or with self. The boys are taught the composition of the Union Jack, how to tie knots that are useful in an emergency and the sending of messages with flags.

Most of the boys of the Pack are now quite advanced in all their work and it is hoped that a Scout troop will be formed in the near future so that they will be kept at this worthwhile train-

ing and retain connections with our church.

Just about a year ago Canadian Girls in Training was revived in our church under the leadership of Margaret McKenzie and Francis Warner, with an enrolment of 15 girls between the ages of 9 and 15

The girls meet Monday nights at 6.30 for an hour and a quarter. The programme includes a sing song, worship service, discussions and other activities. This is not just a recreational programme but is designed to help girls grow into responsible Christian citizens and church members.

The C. G. I. T. purpose is;
As a Canadian Girl in Training,
Under the leadership of Jesus,
It is my purpose to
Cherish Health,
Seek Truth,
Know God,
Serve others.
And, thus, with His help, become
The girl God would have me to be.

		Baptist .	On:	ania la mara	2000
	1070	- Suprior	1101	nisters 1850-1	950
-	1850			Elder R. Herrington	
Jan.	1853-	——Sept. 13	1859	Pastor A. Campbell	
	1000			Pastor J. Painter	
	1861—	Jan.	1862	Pastor A. Wade	
	1862		1864	Vacant	
	1865			Pastor Duncan	
	1866-	July	1868	Vacant	
Aug.	1868-	Dec.	1875		
Dec.	1875—		1876	Rev. J. L. Campbell	
		- Nov.	1878	Rev. F. N. Barlow	
Dec.	1878-		1881	Rev. E. J. Stobo	
		——Mar.	1885	Dr. T. L. Davidson	
March	1885-		1886	Rev. J. H. Best	
	1887-			Dr. John Stuart	
	1891-		1890	Rev. H. J. Ware	
Jan.		Nov.	1896	Rev. J. H. Sowerby	
March 6	1898_	INOV.	1897	Rev. Ernest Grigg	
June	1903	——Mar. 29, ——Jan.		Rev. J. J. Ross	1
May 1	1004	Jan.	1904	Rev. Alex Torrie	
May 1	1007	Nov.	1906	Rev. J. W. Hoyt	
Jan.	1907—	Oct. 31,		Rev. W. E. Mathews	
Feb. 2	1012	Sept.	1911	Rev. J. C. McFarlane	
Dec.	1912-	July	1915	Rev. E. T. Newton	
Sales and the sales are	1915~	Oct. 24,		Rev. J. T. Marshall	
April 6	1924-	Aug. 31,	1927	Rev. J. L. Sloat	
Sept. 11	1927-	Sept. 12,	1937	Rev. J. Janes	
Nov. 28	1937-	Nov. 26,	1939	Rev. M. L. Gregg	-
Feb. 1	1940-	Feb. 1,	1950	Rev. H. W. Stewart	
Apr.	1950 —			Rev. A. L. Foster	

REV. JOHN LORNE CAMPBELL August 14, 1868-December 1875

John Lorne Campbell was born at Dominionville, Ontario, the son of Peter and Flora (McLean) Campbell, on January 14, 1849.

He attended Woodstock College and University of Toronto, graduating therefrom, B.A. with Honours in 1883. He received his D.D. at Central University, Ia. in 1893 and from McMaster in 1907.

August 1868 was an important time in Rev. Campbell's life for it was then that he married Miss Maggie C. McIntyre of Dominionville and it was then that he came to Chatham, fresh from Woodstock College. On August 14th he was ordained into the ministry and on that date the Chatham Church was first recognized.



REV. AND MRS. J. L. CAMPBELL

Rev. J. L.Campbell's first Church had just been renovated and with a membership of less than 30 he began his work. Due in no small measure to his ability, the Church soon grew to over 200 and accommodation became insufficient for the audiences who came to hear his sermons

At that time Rev. J. L. Campbell is described as of average size and had sandy hair. He was greatly respected by all who

were privileged to know him.

In May 1873, when the Church was destroyed by fire, services were held in a nearby hall and plans immediately set in action for a new and larger edifice. Under his dynamic leadership the first storey of our present church was started and on August 14, 1874, exactly six years after arriving in Chatham, Rev. J. L. Campbell laid the Corner Stone of the new chapel. The first services were held in the building on January 3rd, 1875

Having placed the affairs of the new church on a firm footing, Rev. J. L. Campbell resigned to accept a new charge at Dundas, Ontario, December, 1875, where he served for 1½ years and then went to Montreal for one year. From 1879 to 1884 Rev. J.

L. Campbell was in Cheltenham.

Rev. J L. Campbell was pastor of the Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, New York, from 1889 to 1904; during the summers of 1899, 1901-1902 he preached in London, England. In 1905 Dr. Campbell became pastor of First Baptist Church, Cambridge, Mass.

On the occasion of our Anniversary of 1902, Dr. W. Stewart, who was in charge of the services, read a letter of greeting from Dr. Campbell at the close of the evening service.

In 1906 Dr. Campbell returned to Chatham for Anniversary services. Concerning the occasion the press reported as follows:

"Dr. Campbell is a preacher of great ability and power who has made a name for himself in Canada and U.S.A. He is a man of great intellectual and scholarly attainments." He is described as a middle aged man of strong personality, rather stout in build and impressed one as having a large and sympathetic nature. His voice is clear and resonant and his manner of expression deliberate and impressive."

Dr. Campbell again returned for Anniversary Services, in October 1914. On the following Monday night after an excellent lecture on Egypt and the Holy Land, Mr M. Houston mentioned that Dr. Campbell had been invited not only to speak for the occasion but also to witness the discharge of the mortgage put on the church when it had been built during his ministry here.

Dr. Campbell was very interested in Missions and was secretary of the Baptist Foreign Mission Society of Ontario and Quebec and of the Baptist Home Mission Society. He attended the meetings at Guelph in 1875 and at Buffalo in 1876.

In addition to his lecturing Dr. Campbell was historian of the Canadian Club of Boston and Author of the following books:

"Heavenly Recognition and Other Sermons (1895)
"Sanctification" (1903)
"The Patmos Letters" (1908)

REV. F. N. BARLOW

December 1875-April, 1876

Rev. F. N. Barlow ministered to the Baptists in Chatham for a period of slightly over a year, during a period of depression and while services were still being held in the basement of the church.

The first record available of Rev. F. N. Barlow is an entry found in the Chapel Opening on January 3rd, 1875. It will be noted that he was from Munroe, Michigan. He returned to Chatham in October of that year to be the guest speaker at a Tea meeting held by the Ladies Aid.

When Rev. J. F Campbell resigned, Rev. F. Barlow was asked to become the pastor. His date of departure is established

by the following newspaper entry:-

"May 2nd, 1877, Rev. J. L. Barlow, brother of Rev. F. N. Barlow, late pastor of the William Street Baptist Church was inducted as pastor of the Regular Baptist Church in Ridgetown on Friday last"

The Chatham Directory of 1876-1877 lists Rev. Barlow as residing on the corner of Colborne and Prince Streets.

Mrs. A. Thompson now in her ninetieth year, was baptized by Rev. J. N. Barlow.

Rev. E. J. Stobo



1876 December 1878

E. J. Stobo was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on May 13, 1838.

His parents died when he was very young.

In 1865 Rev. E. J. Stobo went to Kilmarnoch and erected a Baptist Church there He later resigned and came to Canada in charge of 76 boys and girls from the Scottish National Orphan Home. When he had settled all the children in comfortable homes he returned to Scotland and in 1866 married Miss Elizabeth Lindsay, following which both came to Canada.

In November 1872, Rev. E. J. Stobo was established as pastor at Fonthill. The following year he went to Brampton, where in three years the membership increased from 9 to 60 and

a new Chapel was built at a cost of \$6,000.

In 1876 Rev. E J. Stobo came to Chatham and it was under his energetic leadership that the second storey of our church was

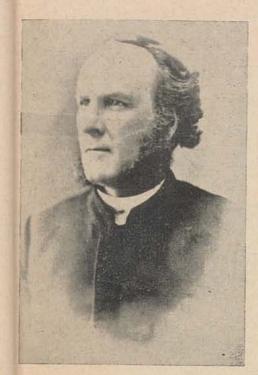
completed.

In November 1878, Rev. E. J. Stobo left Chatham due to ill health and assumed the pastorate of the Baptist Church in Collingwood. He later held charges in Peterborough, Belleville and Quebec where he retired in 1884 and died in 1919.

Rev. A. C. Dixon, who lately served as interim pastor in Chatham, told of meeting Rev. E. J. Stobo's son, now a retired

Doctor, living in Quebec City.

Rev. E. J. Stobo served as President of the Quebec Evangelistic Alliance and was vice-president of the Dominion Alliance For ten years he served as secretary of the Quebec Bible Society.



Rev. Thos. L. Davidson D.D.

December 1878-1881

Thomas L. Davidson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Sept. 6th, 1825, and brought to Canada in 1833.

When a youth he attended evangelistic services conducted by Rev. Duncan McPhail in his early days, and applied for baptism but the pastor was called away and could not comply. In 1842 when a Church was organized in Perth and Dr. Fyfe, the first Pastor, baptized Mr. Duncan.

Having previously completed preparatory studies in Hamilton, N. Y. Mr. Davidson was accepted at Canada Baptist College, Montreal, for the Ministry. Here he proved to be a diligent student and graduated in 1847 fol-

lowing which, he was ordained at Markham Baptist Church.

While in Markham, Rev.T. L. Davidson married a Miss Winter of Brantford, whose father in 1854 started the "Christian Messenger," later named the Canadian Baptist by Dr. Fyfe.

In 1859 Rev. Davidson was in Brantford and in 1860 while pastor at St. George, the University of Rochester conferred on him

an Honorary D.D.

Davidson was next in Aylmer from which church he resigned to be Home Mission Secretary and then became pastor in Chatham.

Concerning his stay in Chatham, the following quotation from a local paper is worthy of note, 'the town proved unfavourable to his health and the health of his family, one of his children died. The malaria so prevalent in this district so affected him that while his work was blessed he was forced to resign and move to Tiverton where he died on September 16th, 1883.

Dr. Davidson was described as possessing more than average administrative ability and to use his own expression he was 'a dyed in-the-wool Baptist. As a result of a well known controversy he set forth a book containing 200 pages on 'Baptism and Communion.'

Dr. Davidson was secretary of Missions from 1851-1872 and again in 1876.

Dr. Davidson was twice married, his second wife lived until

1892. Large families resulted from both marriages.

While in Chatham, Dr. Davidson first lived on the corner of Baxter and Park Streets, where Clark's Drug Store now stands; later he moved to Park Avenue, about No. 91. His success has already been mentioned. On one occasion he baptized 20 candidates, one of whom was Mrs. H. H. Winegarden; he also baptized Mrs. E. Mackenzie.

Rev. J. H. Best 1881-MARCH 1885



REV. AND MRS. J. H. BEST

Although Rev. Best was pastor of our church, there is not a great deal of information available to present a complete biographical sketch.

It has been established that he was a student pastor at Wilkesporte and Moore in 1875, ordained in 1879 in New Westminister, B.C., and came to Chatham in 1881. He was a young man and while here married and lived for awhile on King Street E., across from the A.M.E. Church.

Mrs. Best died while in Chatham and then Rev. J. H. Best left for Rossland, B.C., where he remarried. His sojourn at Rossland

was at the time of the gold rush along the Columbia River and he became interested in mining stocks.

Only three items of interest appear in the local papers during his period in Chatham.

June 9th, 1884—'Rev. J. H. Best left for St. Louis today to attend the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Commandery of Red Cross to be held the present week.'

March 8th,1885—'Rev. Best congratulated the Baptist Church on their selection of Rev. J. Stuart, from Beamsville, as his successor.'

December 6th, 1897—Rev. J. H. Best of Rossland, B. C., a former pastor of the Baptist Church. conducted services yesterday.'

Rev. John Stuart

·· \$1111\$ ··

MARCH 1885-1886

John Stuart was born in Hamilton Manor, North Ireland. on December 7th, 1845. He was educated at Guelph and the University of Toronto, (B.A.) following which he studied Theology at Mc-Master, (B.D., 1844). He received his Ph. D. at Weslyan University, Bloomington, Ill.

Mr. Stuart was student pastor at the Bothwell and Florence Churches in 1875 and in January went to Waterdown where he was ordained. He also served as Minister at Hartford and Beamsville after which he succeeded Rev. Best in Chatham on March 29th, 1885, leaving Chatham for Owen Sound where he was ministering when he received his Ph.D.

In 1889 Dr. Stuart became pastor at Pella, Iowa, and in 1890 became president of Central University of Iowa from which he was forced to resign later on account of ill health.

After his restoration to good health, Dr. Stuart studied medicine at Barnes College of St. Louis and graduated in 1897 with his M.D. He practiced medicine in Monroe, Indiana. His death occurred about 1930.

In 1868 Rev. Stuart married Miss Mary Grafftey who died in 1896. There were three children. Hamilton, who died young; Flossie, married and living in U.S.A. and Sarah, who married Dr. G. W. Barber of Brantford. Mrs. Barber died about 1932. Dr. Barber lives with his son Dr. G. S. Barber at 35 Charlotte Street, Brantford.

While in Chatham Dr. Stuart resided on Raleigh Street, corner of Harvey. He is described by those who can recall him, as being a very scholarly man, rather tall and thin but not possessing a very rugged physique.



REV. H. J. WARE

Rev. H. J. Ware

1887-1890

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Rev. H. J. Ware came to Canada from England about 1881. He had been an Evangelical Episcopalian and had done valuable work in the slums of London. After coming to this country he entered Christian work in London, Ontario, as Y.M.C.A. secretary. It was then that he was baptized by Rev. A. Grant and served the Baptist ministry in Ontario, performing the duties as pastor at Kincardine and Tillsonburg before coming to Chatham in 1887.

At first Rev. H. Ware lived on William Street near Witherspoon but later had built the brick house on Dufferin Avenue, now an apartment owned by Mrs. C. Lapp.

Rev. H. Ware is spoken of as a very generous man and often would buy fruit on the market to give to the children. He loved to play marbles with the boys.

Rev. Ware is described by those who knew him as an eloquent speaker who carried out his pastoral duties with amazing enthusiasm. He was a forerunner of a brilliant group of Baptist orators who won Canada-wide renown as the McMaster Band of whom Mr. W. A. Cameron was an outstanding figure. Rev. Ware was equally conspicuous in his faithful and exacting attention to his pastoral duties which, in a growing congregation became increasingly heavy. From the burden of his pastoral work, he sought relaxation in his hobby of painting and in the course of his too brief lifetime produced many creditable paintings. He was equally skilled in land-scape painting and portraiture.

Rev. Ware's intense devotion to his work undermined his strength and in hope that a change of climate would restore his health, he accepted a new pastorate in Lindsay. On the eve of his departure he presented his self-painted portrait to his warm friend, the late Thomas Wanless, who assisted in preparing his pictures for shipment to his new home. This picture is now in the possession of Mrs. Phoebe Wanless, 55 Stanley Avenue.

On Thursday, May 18th, 1893, Rev. Ware's lifeless body was found by his son in the waters of the lake at Sturgeon Point near Lindsay. At the time of his death the Lindsay Church was about to grant six weeks leave of absence to permit Rev. and Mrs. Ware to visit England. Rev. Ware was buried in Toronto, May 20th, 1893.

The above cut shows Rev. Ware at work on the portrait of the late Mr. W. McKeough, grandfather of Col. Grant McKeough of this city.

Rev. J. Fl. Sowerby 1891-1896



Joseph Henry Sowerby was born in 1859 near Toronto. He was the youngest of three sons and the next to the youngest of six children born to John and Rebecca Sowerby.

When he was seventeen years of age he was sure God was calling him into the Christian ministry and began almost immediately to equip himself for further education by entering the Academy in Brushton, N.Y. Being a ready speaker and indoctrined by a

Christian father and mother in Bible truth he began early to preach wherever there was opportunity.

While working and studying in Brushton he was married to Miss Abbie Winkley. Two children were born to this marriage, Cecil and Blanche. Cecil died in infancy. Blanche was about two years old when her mother died. Later Mr. Sowerby married Miss Lucy May Clifton of Norridgewock, Maine. To this union two children were born, Clifton Craig and Lily May, the later born in Chatham, July 21st, 1891.

Mr. Sowerby was a graduate of McMaster University. While still a student he served a small church in Aurora, also one in New Sarum, making the week-end trips to and from these churches.

In 1891 he received a call to the Chatham church and in many ways enjoyed a fruitful ministry for almost six years. Several evangelistic meetings were held during these years. A new organ was bought and installed.

Rev. Sowerby was called to the Baptist Church in Guelph while in Chatham but it was a short stay there as the Home Mission Board requested him within a year to go to Sault Ste. Marie, where the church building was to be renovated and other specific work was to be done. He was pastor in the 'Soo' for a little over four years when he received a call to Canton, Illinois, where he had a successful ministry for 12 years.

While in Canton, Rev. Sowerby did a vast amount of research work, gathering material for a book entitled 'Psychic Phenomena in the Light of the Bible.' The material in this book was considered of such value that Rev. Sowerby was persuaded by managers of the Chautauqua lecture bureau to resign at Canton and give his message. For this book Rev. Sowerby was awarded the degree of D.D. by a college in Illinois.

For ten years Rev. Sowerby was out of the ministry. He did have the privilege of speaking to great audiences for some years until the First World War. He lectured for the Food Administrator under Mr. Herbert Hoover and later was a recreation adviser and at the close of the war he worked for the U.S. Government organizing School Savings Banks for the Treasury Department.

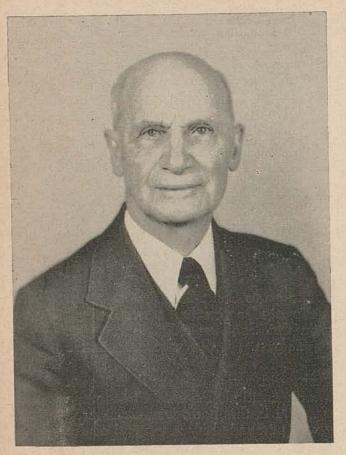
In 1924 Rev. Sowerby was called to the Baptist Church in Iola, Kansas, and served it for nearly 13 years. For four years following his retirement he was in failing health and passed away

August 2nd, 1941.

Mrs. Sowerby ,writing from Iola, where she is still active in Sunday School work, says as follows concerning the church in Chatham: The congregation was made up of many active Christian men and women gracious and tolerant with a young minister and his wife, who had much to learn by experience rather than theory, learned from books without practice. The Young People's Society was a constant joy because of their faith and loyalty to their pledged vows of effort to faithful service.'

Mrs. Sowerby hopes that the older members of the church will see in the picture she sent, some likeness of the young man they

knew 59 years ago.



Rev. Ernest Grigg Jan. 1897—Nov. 1897

Ernest Grigg was born of English parents in Exeter on July 25th, 1863, and attended public school in that village. After receiving his secondary education at Clinton High School he at the age of eighteen entered the employ of Messrs. Samwell and Pickard in Exeter, as a bookkeeper and remained there for four years, an experience that proved of inestimable value.

Mr. Grigg was baptized in the Talbot Baptist Church, London, by the late Rev. Alexander Grant. He later resigned his position and entered Toronto Baptist College to prepare for the ministry. One of his fellow students was J. H. Sowerby, a former pastor of our Church.

After graduation, Mr. Grigg was called to the Perth Baptist Church where he was ordained. It was during this pastorate that he was married and had the privilege of baptizing his mother.

Rev. and Mrs. Grigg felt the call to witness for God in a foreign land and in 1893 set sail from New York for Burma, the land where Dr. and Mrs. Adoniram Judson served so faithfully.

During his first furolugh, Rev. Grigg served as Interim Pastor in the Chatham Baptist Church. When he left Calcutta the temperature was 109 degrees in the shade but before he left Chatham there was snow to be shovelled.

Rev. Grigg left Chatham in November 1897, and continued to serve in the mission field until 1938. During the past twelve years he has been speaking on mission experiences and assisting in evangelistic meetings in many States of the United States and in addition has filled a number of speaking engagements in Ontario. During the month of August, 1950, he has supplied in the Baptist Church at Garden City, Michigan, while the pastor was on vacation.

In spite of the fact that Rev. Grigg has passed the three score and ten years, he is in excellent health and looks forward to being in our Church at the Centennial.

Rev. J. J. Ross, D.D.

March 6th, 1898-March 29th, 1903



J. J. Ross was born in Quebec and was educated at Woodstock College and McMaster University. He studied Biblical Archeology in the British Museum, London, and spent considerable time in the Bible Lands of the East.

Mr. Ross was ordained in our church coming here after serving as student pastor at Uxbridge, Ontario. He held pastorates in London, Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines before going to Chicago where he was in charge of the Second Baptist Church.

Rev. Ross lectured in the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and was president of Chicago Baptist Ministers' Union and vice-president of the Northern Baptist Convention.

From 1923 to 1929 Rev. J. J. Ross served as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Vancouver, and then for the last five years of active ministry, he was at Trinity Baptist Church, Winnipeg. Early in 1935, Dr. Ross resigned due to ill health and returned with Mrs. Ross, to Vancouver where they made their home with Mrs. Porter Robertson, a daughter of the late Rev. W. H. Robertson, former pastor of Talbot Street Church, London.

Dr. Ross died on September 18th, 1935, in Burnaby, B.C., and

was buried in Ocean View Burial Park, Vancouver, B.C. A son, John Graham Ross, resides in Winnipeg.

During his sojourn in Chatham, Dr. Ross made countless friends. He is described by those who knew him, as a big man in every way. His sermons were inspirational and thought-provoking and was often invited to return to Chatham. He preached Anniversary Services in 1907, 1911 and 1919. In 1922, while in Chicago, Dr. Ross was invited to return for Anniversary but he was unable to come because of the press of his work.

While Dr. Ross was pastor in Hamilton Church, during World War I, he espied in the congregation, Elliott Dunn, then in uniform. Dr. Ross remarked to his audience that there was one among them now on Active Service but who not so long ago had been most active as a child, even to the point of turning a somersault in the aisle of a former church.





Rev. Alex. Torrie

June 1903-January 1904

Alex. Torrie was born in 1878 in Strathaven, Grey County, attended public school in that place and spent one year at Owen Sound Collegiate Institute following which he enrolled at Woodstock College and obtained his matriculation in 1895.

After four years study at Mc-Master, Mr. Torrie obtained his B.A. degree but then took a two year course in Theology. In May 1903 he was ordained into the ministry and held pastorates at Caledonia, Norwood, Lakefield, Gremville and Beckworth.

On many occasions, Rev. Torrie was at the pulpit of our church conducting evangelistic services. For about the last six months of 1903 and for a short time in 1904, Rev. Torrie was Interim Pastor, following the departure of Rev. J. J. Ross.

Later in his evangelistic career, Rev. Torrie teamed up with Rev. Don Cameron, one of the famous McMaster Band, and in February 1925, during the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Sloat, conducted a two weeks' campaign of evangelism and many took their stand for Christ.'

Death ended Rev. Torrie's active life on April 19th, 1947.



Rev. J. W. Hoyt

May 1st, 1904-

November 6th, 1906

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Due to the death of both Rev. and Mrs. Hoyt a complete biographical sketch cannot be included. However, certain facts have been established and are set forth hereunder.

In 1895 Mr. Hoyt graduated from McMaster University, was ordained in 1895 and in October 1869 accepted an appointment in Dresden where he had been student pastor since 1894. Rev. J. W. Hoyt remained there until April, 1898 when he became the minister at the Aylmer Baptist Church.

During 1899 and continuing until April 1904, Rev. Hoyt was the pastor at Victoria Avenue Baptist Church in Hamilton. When on February 27th of that year he preached for a call in Chatham, he is reported as 'having clear and distinct enunciation and is both enthusiastic and energetic.'

Mrs. Hoyt was very active and had a fine young men's class.

On first coming to Chatham the Hoyts lived at 6 Murray Street but later moved to Dufferin Avenue, two doors past the Park Street United Church.

Rev. and Mrs. Hoyt bade farewell to a host of friends on November 6th, 1906. On the occasion of their departure, Mrs. Hoyt was presented with a grouped picture of thirty-seven members of her class. This picture is reported to be in 'a massive frame four feet by three feet setting off the whole to great advantage.'

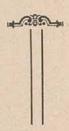
After serving at the Centre Street Baptist Church in St. Thomas until the latter part of 1908 Rev. and Mrs. Hoyt moved to Jackson, Michigan. Later Rev. Hoyt served the churches in Peru, Indiana, Belden Avenue, Chicago, and then retired in Warsaw, Indiana.

Rev. Hoyt was called Home in April 1948; Mrs. Hoyt survived until August 1950.

Mr. Hoyt Kerr of Lacroix Street, Chatham, whose mother, the former Lillian Gwilt, and father were married by Rev. Hoyt, is named after our former pastor.



Rev. W. E. Matthews



May 1st 1907-October 31st 1909

W. E. Matthews, after attending Public and High Schools in his native City of London, Ontario, studied courses offered by the Forest City Business College, now Westervelt Business School. He then completed his secondary education at Woodstock College and returned to the Business College as a member of the teaching staff.

McMaster claimed the next six years of his life and he graduated in Arts and Theology. Fresh from College, Mr. Matthews came to Chatham where he was ordained in June, 1907.

In 1908 Rev. Matthews was joined by his bride, Elsie Dryden, voungest daughter of the late Honourable John and Mrs. Dryden. Mr. Dryden, who died in 1909, while Rev. Matthews was in Chatham, will be remembered for his association with the Toronto Winter Fair.

Rev. Matthew's ministry here was short in that the call of the West proved irresistible and in 1909 he went to Brandon's First Church where he stayed for seven years and then to Broadway Church, Winnipeg, for over twelve years. During his Western ministry, Rev. Matthews was active in both denominational and civic enterprises. In 1921 he was chosen president of the Baptist Union of Western Canada and for several years was chairman of the Board of Governors of Brandon College. As its president he gave leadership to the Lord's Day Alliance of Manitoba for some years.

In October 1928, Rev. Matthews returned to Ontario to assume the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church in Windsor. A year later he suffered serious injuries in an automobile accident and was finally complelled to withdraw from active ministry.

As health improved, Rev. Matthews joined the Detroit Edison Company, where for nearly fifteen years he was industrial chaplain and staff adviser.

Now retired, Rev. and Mrs. Matthews make their home in Detroit (256 West Montana) but spend most of the winter months in Florida.



Rer. J. C. McFarlane

January 1910-September 1911

John Cowan McFarlane was of Scottish origin, the son of John and Christina (McGowan) Mc-Farlane. His father was from Lanark County, his mother from Lochaber, Scotland. He was born in Huron County in 1866 and enrolled in Greencock Public School following which he went to Manitoba with his parents. Here, he joined a group of young men in a private class of the Rev. Alexander Grant, of the First Church, Winnipeg, through whose influence he began his ministry as a student pastor at Carnduff, Sask.

Mr. McFarlane returned to Ontario and attended Woodstock College and McMaster University, graduating in Arts in 1899 and later took his Theology course in Rochester. He held a summer student appointment in 1898 at Niagara Falls South and the following year in Port Perry where he was ordained and remained for 5½ years.

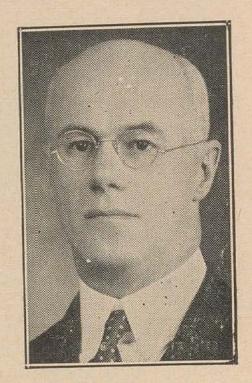
In 1900 Rev. McFarlane married Miss Elizabeth Eby of Berlin, Ontario, (Kitchener).

After being pastor at West Henrietta, N.Y. and Port Hope, Rev. McFarlane came to Chatham in January 1910. In September of the next year he left to assume a charge in Newark, N.J., following which he was in Dayton, Ohio. In 1925 Rev. McFarlane returned to Canada and held successful pastorates at Ninga, Swan River, Emerson and Neepawa.

"On Sunday, March 8, 1936, whilst sitting in church awaiting for Sunday School to begin, Dr. McFarlane, without warning or struggle passed away. His passing was easy for himself but a sudden shock to his family, his churches of Neepawa and Glendale by whom he was beloved and the whole town who held him in great respect. He is survived by his widow, two daughters, Mrs. H. P. Claus, Buffalo; Miss Grace McFarlane, Rochester, and one son Jack at home." (The Western Baptist, May 1936). "A faithful pastor beloved by all."—(The Toronto Globe).

Rev. E. J. Newton

February 4th, 1912-July 19th, 1915



E. T. Newton's home was in St. Thomas, Ontario. While working on the M.C.R. as a messenger, Rev. W. A. Cameron, then student pastor in a St. Thomas Church, later of Yorkminister Baptist Church, Toronto, persuaded Mr. Newton to attend Woodstock College. Graduating in 1907, he spent five years at McMaster, obtaining his B.A. in 1911 and then completing his year in Theology.

In January 1912, Mr. Newton supplied in the pulpit of our church and then accepted the call of the Church as presented by the late W. G. Merritt, then a member of the Pulpit Committee. In June 1912 he was ordained in the church.

In September Rev. Newton returned with his wife, a sister of Rev. William Arthurs and Mrs. C. R. Duncan.

In July, 1915, after assisting with the amalgamation of the Central Baptist and Chatham Baptist Churches, Rev. Newton took up residence in Carleton Place. He was later at Vankleek Hill and for 15 years at First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls.

In 1940 Rev. Newton retired from the Baptist ministry but in 1941 supplied in a small Presbyterian Church at Stamford, which was unable to maintain a full time minister. Later he moved to Stamford and since then has been minister of Stamford -St. Davids Presbyterian Church. (Present Address—899 St. Paul Street, Stamford.)

Rev. J. J. Marshall



December 5th, 1915— October 24th, 1923

Joshua T. Marshall was born in England in 1868, son of Rev. R. Marshall. The family came to Canada when he was quite young and settled in Western Canada.

Mr. Marshall attended McMaster, graduated in 1900 and accepted the invitation to be pastor at Cobourg. Later he went to the King Street Church in Kitchener and in 1907 under his hand the church auditorium was built there. Rev. Marshall then went to Chilliwack and then to Vancouver. (Dr. Sloat's present church).

After a period at Point St. Charles, Rev. Marshall in December 1915, became the much-beloved pastor of the Chatham Baptist Church where his influence over young people was noteworthy. As early as 1921 when Rev. Marshall was with us, consideration was being given to the extensive renovations carried to completion in 1924 while Mr. Sloat was here.

From November 1923 until April 1929 Rev. Marshall was in Castlefield Avenue Baptist Church, Toronto, leaving there to go to the Church in Fort William.

It was Easter Sunday at First Church, Fort William, that Rev. Marshall preached his last sermon. From the Canadian Baptist of May 1934, we read: 'Although not well, at the time and suffering an illness of several years' duration, Rev. Marshall conducted the service which included a baptismal of several candidates, one of whom was his grandson from Montreal. His death occurred on April 5th, 1934.

Surviving are hiswidow, Julie Holmes of Sarnia, one son, a brother, J. H. Marshall of Windsor; a sister, Mrs. A. Sharpe, Windsor; a brother in New York. The late Dr. Toward Marshall, noted Baptist Minister, was also a brother."

Curiously enough, Rev. Marshall held five pastorates in five of the same churches as Rev. J. L. Sloat who succeeded him in Chatham. These churches were: Tillsonburg, Kerrisdale (Vancouver), Castlefield (Toronto), Fort William and Chatham.

Rev. J. L. Sloat April 6, 1924—August 31, 1927



Mr. Sloat was born and spent his early life in the Province of New Brunswick. While still in his teens, he was using his physical capabilities in the lumber mills of British Columbia and his mental ability to minister to the people of Chilliwack where he succeeded in building a Baptist Mission. This was the first of ten building programmes Mr. Sloat instigated. By dint of hard work Mr. Sloat was eventually able to enroll in Brandon College where he met Dr. Trotter, a man who had a great influence on his life.

From Brandon Mr. Sloat went to McMaster and obtained his B.A. in 1909 and his B. Th. in 1911. Rev. Sloat held pastorates in what is now the Eglington Baptist Church in Toronto, at Fort William where his two sons were born, and at Niagara Falls.

Mrs. Sloat, formerly Blanche Shields of Colborne, was also a McMaster graduate, obtaining her B.A. in 1907 and her M.A. in 1909.

Rev. and Mrs. Sloat with their two sons came to Chatham from Niagara Falls and resided at 1 Ellwood Avenue.

As a result of a conference in Toronto with Mr. W. C. Senior, a financial campaign was planned to carry out the proposed renovations to our church, Mr. Sloat's seventh of its kind. In 45 days the work was under way.

Mr. W. G. Merritt, the Chairman of the Building Fund, was daily at the church noting the progress of the work. One day he

said, "I expect that this will be the last big job I will do for my church." The church was opened in October and plans were made to have a Grand Opening in January with Dr. J. L. Campbell to be present. However, these plans did not mature because of the death of Mrs. Campbell in New York and at the same time Mr. W. G. Merritt, at whose home Dr. Campbell was to have been entertained, also passed away.

The January service thus was a sad one but it was decided to have Rev. Alex. Torrie for an evangelistic campaign. This proved to be a most successful one.

Rev. Sloat then accepted a call to New Westminister, (Olivet Church) B.C., to take effect August 31 (1927) It was the time of the typhoid epidemic and both Rev. Sloat and son Francis were hospitalized for 7 weeks with the result that the Sloat family did not make the trip until October.

During the nineteen years that Rev. Sloat was in New Westminister a new Olivet Church was built and another one was established at Westminister Heights.

In 1945 Rev. Sloat received his D.D. and the following year he moved to Vancouver where he became pastor of the Kerrisdale Church, "The Church on the Boulevard."

This year Dr. Sloat completed fifty years in the ministry and received two months' vacation during which he attended the World Baptist Alliance in Cleveland, Ohio, visited a son in New York and spent some time in Kitchener.

Kenneth Sloat, the elder son, is in New York where he represents the Seaboard Lumber Co. of Vancouver; Francis is a successful science teacher in Nanaimo, B.C.

Dr and Mrs. Sloat reside at 2159 West 44th Street, Vancouver, B.C.





REV. JOSEPH JANES

September 11, 1927—September 12, 1937

Rev. Joseph Janes

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Joseph Janes was born September 15, 1876, in London, Ont., the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Janes.

At the age of eleven he went to Michigan to live with an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Higgins, and remained there for eight years. He found plenty of work to do there on the farm and helped to pull stumps from sixty acres of land. He continued his elementary education, started at Victoria School, London, at a rural school nearby. Mr. Janes was converted at the age of thirteen and baptized in the Chippawa River.

In 1895 he returned to London and was a travelling salesman for two wholesale houses for a time.

On June 2, 1898, he entered Woodstock College with W. E. Mathews, also of London. After winning scholarships in his third and four years, Mr. Janes graduated in 1900 and entered McMaster Divinity School that September, graduating thereform in 1905 with honours in Classics.

From July 1901, until September 1902, Mr. Janes was student pastor of the Courtwright-Brigden-Moore Centre Churches in Lambton County. During the summer of 1903 and 1904 he served the Barrston and Baldwin Mills Churches in the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

After graduating from McMaster, he taught in Woodstock College, during 1905-06. He received his M.A. in History in 1915 from McMaster.

Mr. Janes was ordained in July 1910, and in September of that year was united in marriage with Miss Pauline Mowat, contralto soloist of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, London.

Rev. Janes' first pastorate was in St. Marys which terminated in February 1910. He has served successively in Kitchener (King Street), Ingersoll, Woodstock (First), Chatham, Brantford (Calvary) Goderich, and is present pastor of the New Sarum and Jaffa Churches in the Elgin Association.

Rev. Janes was one of two pastors who laboured in our church for ten years, eight of which were during the depression. During his ministry here Rev. Janes baptized eighty-six into the church. It was in 1932, during his pastorate in Chatham that Union Services with the Presbyterian Church, during the summer months was commenced.

Rev. and Mrs. Janes have two children, Dr. J. Mowat Janes, a surgeon on the Staff of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., and Mrs. R. S. Eberhard, of London.

Rev. M. L. Gregg

November 18, 1937—November 26, 1939



Merritt L. Gregg was born and brought up on the Gregg homestead. Mountain Dale, New Brunswick, was converted and baptized at the age of 14.

After preparing himself for teaching, he became active in Young People's Christian work. Mr. Gregg attended various institutions of learning and obtained his B. A. in Bates College. Feeling a Divine Call to enter the Christian Ministry he took special courses in preparation for the same at Theological Seminaries.

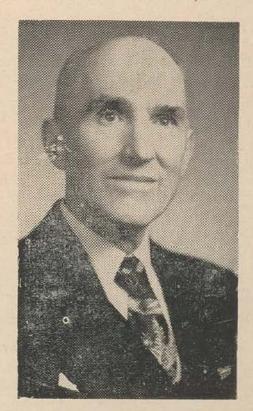
After his ordination, Rev. Gregg held pastorates in United States and Canada, Sydney, N.S., Toronto and Edmonton

Rev. Gregg has five brothers and two sisters. Of his brothers, Harris is in the dairy business in Seattle, Wash.; Stewart is a farmer on the old homestead; Ralph is a Baptist Minister in the Maritime Convention; Milton is a member of the Federal Cabinet (Minister of Labour). One sister, Annie, resides in Saskatchewan; Lottie still lives in New Brunswick.

Rev. Gregg is at present pastor of the St. George, Ont. Baptist Church, but expects to retire the last of October, this year, having completed fifty years as an ordained Baptist Minister.

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Rev. H. W. Slewart February 1, 1940—February 1, 1950



Hugh W. Stewart was born in Rochester, N. Y., on July 31, 1889, the last of seven children of Canadian parents. Mr. Stewart's father, a Baptist Minister, had moved from James Street Church in Hamilton, to the First Baptist Church of Rochester, where after a ministry of 17 years he became Dean and Professor in the Roches-

ter Theological Seminary. Mr. Stewart's mother, brought up in Montreal, had been a teacher in Woodstock College.

Mr. Stewart attended school in Rochester and received his B.A. degree from the University of Rochester and his B.D. from the Divinity School.

In June 1916, Rev. Stewart was established in the First Baptist Church of Trumansburg, N.Y., and the same year married Miss Ruth Casey. After an absence of two years while serving as Chaplain of the 107th Regt. 27 Inf. Div. during World War I, Rev. Stewart returned to complete ten years in the lovely Finger Lake Community, and then back to Rochester where he obtained his Master of Theology Degree and served part time as assistant minister in the First Presbyterian Church.

In 1928 Rev. Stewart moved to the Ontario Street Baptist Church in Stratford where he served 12 years. It was in the year following the move to Stratford that son Robert entered Falstaff Public School. While in Stratford Rev. Stewart began the Vacation Bible School, took an active part in getting the Hermosa B.Y.P.U. Camp underway and also the Community Leadership School.

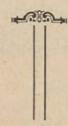
In February 1940, Rev. Stewart began his pastorate in Chatham and is one of two ministers who stayed for ten years. While here, he assisted in the religious instruction in the public schools and an active worker in the Khaki Club during World War II.

At his three pastorates Rev. Stewart has made a host of friends. During this period he has conducted 498 funerals, married 256 couples, dedicated 172 children and baptized 325 persons.

From December 1944, until April 1945, Rev. Stewart was on leave of absence due to illness. In December 1948, Mrs. Stewart, a faithful partner for many years, was called to her reward.

In February of this year Rev. Stewart began his pastorate in Dunnville, Ont., and reports the new church a promising field for service.

In July of this year, Rev. Stewart married Miss Ethel Keats, well-known as a teacher at Queen Mary School, Chatham, and as a member of our church.



Rev. A. L. Foster

April 1950---

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Arthur Lorne Foster, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Foster, was born at Thornloe, Ont., and completed his secondary education at Mimico High School. After graduating from McMaster University, Mr. Foster studied at Emannuel College, Toronto, following which he did post graduate work in philosophy and psychology at the University of Toronto.

While at McMaster, Mr. Foster was active in the McMaster Choir, the Debating Society, the International Relations Club and the Divinity School Student's Association. During his university days he won the Gilmour Memorial Prize in Biblical literature, the Hoyes Lloyd prize in New Testament Greek and the John Robert's Scholarship, "awarded annually on the recommendation of the Chancellor and the Dean of the Divinity School to that student who gives, during the divinity school course, the best evidence of general as well as technical fitness for the Christian Ministry."

Mr. Foster has held student pastorates at Belfountaine, New Canadian Mission, Toronto, Bel Ewart and for three years at Glencairn. After his ordination at this church in September, 1948, he continued as pastor for another two years.

Rev. Foster's five years at Glencairn were very successful. He built the church from the ground up and is credited for the well-rounded Christian Education program and the sound financial position the church now enjoys.

On June 16, 1945, Rev. Foster married Miss Iva May Hazzard, a graduate of the Women's Leadership Training School of Mc-Master University. Mrs. Foster possesses musical ability in choir work and at the piano. Rev. and Mrs. Foster have one child, an eighteen-months-old daughter, Wendy Ellen.

Rev. Foster is the eldest of four children. A brother, Charles, a gifted violinist, is a Missionary at Grand Ligne teaching in the Feller Institute. Donald is employed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Toronto; Helen is just commencing her secondary education in Toronto.

Rev. Foster has lately been appointed Protestant Chaplain of the Kent Regiment, with the rank of Hon. Captain.

Church Officers

1950

Non-Elective

Trustees-W. B. Beardall, A. J. Dodman, W. J. Hampton, J. A. M. Hay, H. G. Hodges, R. M. Merritt.

Elective

Honorary Deacon-Ed. Richards.

Deacons—George Wanless, Stanley Gwilt, Basil Judd, J. A. M. Hay, Manning Morgan, Lyle Patterson, Garfield Black, Stanley Haydon.

Honorary Deaconess-Mrs. H. H. Winegarden.

Deaconesses—Mrs. Geo. Wanless, Mrs. J. A. Black, Mrs. T. W. Poile, Mrs. Ella MacKenzie,

Clerk-Stanley A. Gwilt.

Treasurer-W. Bramwell Beardall.

Mission Treasurer—Mrs. I. V. Cofell. Finance Chairman—Alvin J. Dodman. Chairman of Ushers—Max Dunlop. Assist. Chairman of Ushers—Jim Hunt.

Sunday School Superintendent-Lyle Patterson.

Children's Church Committee—Mrs. Lloyd Groombridge, Mrs. J. Blackall, Mrs. Proctor Dick, Miss Margaret Smith, Miss Velma Dunlop.

Music Committee—Clair E. Bagnall, Manning Morgan, Stanley Haydon.

Door Committee—J. A. M. Hay, Geo. Wanless, Manning Morgan, Walter Holder.

Auditors-Walter J. Hampton, Mrs. Milton Mack.

The Deaconate

Those who have served as Deacons since 1905

Proctor A. Dick, Ed. Wanless, C. L. Tullock, Harry Daugherty, J. Arthur Black, John Jack, William J. Wilson, Stanley Miller, William C. Blackburn, James Morgan, O. M. Wachsmuth, Neil Fletcher, William Nay, J. E. Oldershaw, F. Burtch, W. G. Merritt, Mathew Side, G. B. Beardall, H. Macauley. Geo. Parsons, Michael Houston, N. Everitt, J. H. Oldershaw, Dave Moore, James Cornhill, Chas. McLennan W. H. Moore, W. J. McGuire, John Reeve.

Those known to have served in the old church

John Gilmour Hay, Washington Best, Deacon Frederick, Deacon McIntyre, Deacon Williams, Deacon J. Cornhill, Deacon J. H. Oldershaw.

The Trustees

CAO

Those who have served since 1905—C. R. Guy, Ed. Wanless, James E. Gray, Fred Phelps, W. C. Blackburn, Fred Cornhill, O. M. Wachsmuth, Roy McIntyre, J. E. Oldershaw, W. G. Merritt, Arthur Dunn, J. A. Morgan, W. H. Bensen, G. H. Wanless, M. Houston, W. J. McGuire, J. H. Oldershaw, Wm. L. Roe, Geo. Verrall, John Traxler, Robert Ingram, William Floeter, Manoah Greeves, James Rutherford, John Wanless, William Sloan.

Those known to have served in the old church—Duncan Campbell, David Patten, Thomas E. Dawson, James Arnold, Duncan Sinclair, Robert Houston, Samuel McCully, James Lamont, William Flater, Henry Hoage, Oscar Arnold, John Traxler, Thomas Tilsworth, James Douglas, Geo. Verrall, Robert Lowe, William Roe, Joseph Bell, William Floater, James H. Oldershaw, Thomas Pickering, James Knight.

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HONORARY DEACONS

This office first appeared in the records in 1916 during the pastorate of Rev. J. T. Marshall.

Those whose names have appeared since then are—J. H. Oldershaw, James Cornhill, James H. Morgan, H. Macaulay, William Sainsbury, Geo. Geddes, John Jack, William J. Wilson, John McLean, Ed. Richards.

DEACONESSES

This office first appeared in the records in 1923.

Those whose names have appeared are—Mrs. Andrew Thomson, Mrs. H. Macaulay, Mrs. J. A. Black, Mrs. Robert Brown, Mrs. W. G. Merritt, Mrs. H. H. Winegarden, Mrs. S. Miller, Mrs. W. C. Blackburn, Mrs. J. A. Morgan, Mrs. Geo. Wanless, Mrs. Harry Daugherty, Mrs. Lyle Patterson, Mrs. B. Judd, Mrs. Stanley Gwilt, Mrs. Ella MacKenzie, Mrs. T. W. Poile.

HONORARY DEACONESSES

Honorary Deaconesses first appeared on the slate of officers in 1940. Since that time the following names have appeared:—Mrs. H. Macaulay, Mrs. W. C. Blackburn, Mrs. H. H. Winegarden, Mrs. J. A. Morgan, Mrs. John Jack.

Church Directory

1950

Clerk - Mr. Stanley Gwilt, 18 Campbell Avenue, Phone 811-M. Treasurer - Mr. W. B. Beardall, 258 Wellington Street West. Mission Treasurer-Mrs. Irene Coffell, 188 Adelaide S. Financial Secretary-Mr. Murray Merritt, 127 Selkirk, Phone 1077-M Organist - Mrs. W. B. Beardall Choir Leader - Miss Norah Ingram. Chairman of Ushers-Mr. Max Dunlop. Chairman of Deacons-Mr. Lyle Patterson. Chairman of Advisory Board-Mr. Walter Hampton. Superintendent of Sunday School - Mr. Lyle Patterson. Superintendent of Primary Department - Mrs. Gladys Challinor President of Ladies' Aid-Mrs. Geo. Lanning, Jr. President of Women's Mission Circle - Mrs. J. A. Black. President of Mary Wilson Auxiliary - Mrs. Lloyd Groombridge. Leaders of Benson Mission Band - Mrs. Murray Merritt, Mrs. Manning Morgan.

President of B.Y.P.U. — Norman Thomson
Leader of Cubs — Max Dunlop.
Leaders of Brownies — Miss Mary Anne Beardall, Miss Joan Lanning
President Young Adults Bowling Club — Miss K. Lewis
Leader of Children's Church—Mrs. L. Groombridge, Mrs. A. Blackall,
Mrs. P. Dick, Miss Margaret Smith.

Caretaker of Church — Mr. W. M. Jacklin, 50 Prince St., S., Phone 5079-W

Regular Meetings during the Week

Sunday —9.45 A.M. Sunday School

12.15 P.M. Deacons Board, Last Sunday of each Month.

A.M. Mission Band, 2nd Sunday.

Monday -6.30 P.M. C. G. I. T.

8.00 P.M. Young People's Meeting, Weekly.

Tuesday -3.00 P.M. Ladies' Aid Society, 1st Tuesday.

3.00 P.M. Senior Women's Mission Circle, 2nd Tuesday.

3.00 P.M. Circles 1, 2 and 3, L.A.S., 3rd Tuesday.

7.00 P.M. Cubs.

8.00 P.M. Mary Wilson Auxiliary, 2nd Tuesday.

8.00 P.M. Advisory Board, 1st Tuesday.

Wednesday-4.15 P.M. Brownies.

8.00 P.M. Prayer Meeting, Weekly.

8.00 P.M. Church Business Meeting, 2nd Wednesday.

9.00 P.M. Young Adults Bowling.

Thursday -7.00 P.M. Junior Choir

8.00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal, Weekly.

Anniversary Ministers

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	1901	Rev. W. Welton, D.D., L.L.D.
		Rev. Wm. Stewart, D.D.
	1902	
	1903	Rev. Alex Torrie
	1904	Rev. Ralph Trotter
	1905	Rev. W. T. Graham
	1906	Rev. J. L. Campbell, D.D.
	1907	Rev. J. J. Ross
	1908	Rev. Edwards
	1909	Rev. B. W. Merrill
	1910	Dr. J. L. Gilmour
	1911	Rev. J. J. Ross
	1912	Dr. J. L. Gilmour
	1913	Dr. J. L. Mathews
	1914	
		Dr. J. L. Campbell
	1915	Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
	1916	Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
		Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
	1918	Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
	1919	Rev. J. J. Ross
	1920	Dr. J. H. Farmer
9	1921	Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
		Rev. Llewellyn Brown
	1923	Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
		Rev. J. L. Sloat
		Chancellor Whiddon, D.D.
		Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
	1927	Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
		Rev. Burrell
		Prof. M. L. Orchard
		Rev. R. R. McKay, D.D.
	1031	Por W H Langton
	1931	Rev. W. H. Langton
	1932	Dr. A. L. McCrimmon
	1933	Rev. John McNeill
	1934	Rev. P. P. Zeiman
	1935	Rev. Hugh McDiarmid
	1936	Rev. John McNeill
		Rev. L. M. Houlding
		Rev. Bowley Green, D.D.
	1030	Dr. Harold Stewart
		Dr. Harold Stewart
1011	1940 D C F W	
1941	Prof. F. Wate	
1942	Prof. R. J. Mc	
1943	Prof. R. J. Mc	Cracken 1948 Dr. R. F. Aldwinckle
1944	Dr. Harold St	
1945	Dr. Harold St	

Rev. Thomas James Hind



T. J. Hind was born in Dover Township in October 16, 1880. After attending the Bear Line School, he worked as a baker in Chatham and attended the Baptist Church.

During the Pastorate of Rev. J. J. Ross Mr. Hind enrolled at Woodstock College and at the age of 33 years graduated from Mc-Master University.

Mr. Hind was ordained into the Ministry in the Chatham Baptist Church and later became Pastor of the Central Baptist Church, corner of Wellington and Centre Streets. Rev. Hind left Chatham to become Pastor of St. John's Road Church, Toronto.

For fourteen years he laboured in the church at Moose Jaw and then went to the West Point Grey Church at Vancouver, B.C. He served there for 10 years and then retired in that city.

While in British Columbia Rev. Hind became known as an eloquent radio speaker and was known as the "Golden Voice of the West." Many from this area were able to tune in to his services.

Rev. Hind died in Vancouver on June 5, 1949, leaving three children:

Ross, the eldest son, formerly on the Staff at Ridley College at St. Catharines, is now lecturer at the Naval College, Victoria.

Ruth is married in British Columbia.

Ian, the youngest, is a Baptist Minister in Regina.

Two brothers of Rev. Hind, John S. and G. Arthur, live on Wood Street, the former on the home place and the latter next door.

"Time Marches On"

(Newspaper items not mentioned elsewhere)

October 12, 1857

BIBLE SOCIETY

The anniversary of this institute will be held this evening in the Baptist Church commencing at 7:00 o'clock. Mr. Johnston, the agent and other speakers will address the meeting.

January 5, 1859

TEA MEETING

We are pleased to learn that the ladies of the Sewing Society of the Baptist Church (Rev. A. Campbell) will hold a tea meeting on Thursday, the 6th inst. for the purpose of raising funds to pay for the new set of lamps now in use. The object is a good one and we hope their endeavours may be awarded with the merit they justly deserve.

September 13, 1859

A soiree was held in the Baptist Church, Rev. Campbell. The proceeds were given to the Pastor who is about to leave. Mr. Cleeve's choir furnished the music.

June 18, 1861

Mr. Cleve, a teacher of music, held a Music Festival at Mr. Bedford's Grove (S. side of Thames River in Harwich, 7 miles from Chatham).

Births, Wednesday, March 19, 1873

On 13th inst., the wife of Rev. J. L. Campbell, Baptist Minister, Chatham, a daughter.

May 6, 1873

Oyster Supper—The Ladies Aid Society in connection with the Baptist Church announce an Oyster Supper in the basement of the Baptist Chapel, corner King and William Street, on Tuesday evening next, the 18th inst. Supper served from 8 to 10 o'clock. The matter is in the hands of energetic and efficient committee of ladies, and those attending may rely on an excellent time. Tickets only 25c.

Deaths

Died at Chatham, on the 21st of April, 1873, Deacon John Gil-

mour Hay, aged 42 years, 8 months, 21 days.

(Deacon Hay was the grandfather of Miss May Abraham. In the obituary written by Rev. J. L. Campbell it was stated that Mr. Hay came to Chatham in August 1867. He was baptized Sunday evening, 23rd August 1868, the first candidate of Rev. Campbell after he came to the Town). December 1874

Married

Mary Ann Cook to John C. Wanless in the basement of the William Street Baptist Church. (This is believed to have been the first wedding in our present church building).

October 27, 1875

Baptist Foreign Mission Society met in Guelph. Rev. J. L. Campbell, the Secretary, reported 55,000 Baptists in Canada, and 10 missionaries in the field.—Dr. Fyfe presided.

December 24, 1875 (From the Dundas Banner)

On Wednesday evening a Social and Welcome to our new pastor was held in the Baptist School room of the church and the ladies of the congregation did themselves justice to the beautiful fare they put before the audience.

(This was Rev. J. L. Campbell's induction)

December, 1875

The Baptist Congregation are having a new organ set up. We understand that it possesses the great merit of being paid for, which certainly adds to the comfort and appreciation of the worshipper.

Births

Campbell—At the parsonage, Dundas, on the 2nd inst., the wife of Rev. J. L. Campbell, a daughter.

Chatham Directory, 1876-77

William Street Baptist Church is located on the corner of William and Park Streets. It is built of brick with a seating capacity of 1,000 and cost \$15,000. The corner stone was laid in 1874. The society was organized about 7 years ago. There are about 150 members. Public services are held each Sabbath at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sabbath School at 3 p.m., W. J. Roe, M.D., Superintendent: Prayer meeting on Wednesday at 8 p.m. Young People's meeting on Monday night. Teacher's meeting on Thursday. Rev. F. N. Barlow, pastor.

Monday, March 21, 1880

William Street Baptist Church was again filled to overflowing last night to witness the immersion of new converts.

Married (Nov. 1883)

In Camden on the evening of 14th inst. at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. J. H. Best, Chatham, Mr. William C. Blackburn of Chatham Township, Miss Mary Aubrey, Camden.

Married (June 8, 1887)

By Rev. J. H. Ware of the Baptist Church, Mary Douglas to Hiram Heenan Winegarden.

Married (Jan. 22, 1891)

At the home of the Baptist minister, Rev. J. H. Ware, Catharine McNicol to Anthony Joseph Keats.

January 16, 1890

Br. McAlpine who has laboured with us so earnestly for the past 3 years left us last week to do God's work in ministering to the church in Dresden. We wish him God's blessing. (Mr. McAlpine was a teacher at Central School and choir director. It is said that he often travelled to Dresden by handcar on the old Erie and Huron and conducted services, returning in time for school on Monday).

Sunday, November 23, 1890

Rev. D. Hutchinson, Pastor of Park Baptist Church, Brantford, preached Lord's Day morning and evening.

August 4, 1892

Sunday School Excursion, chartered a boat at the cost of \$110, gave a free ride to every member of the school of 400 and, after paying expenses, cleared \$100.00.

July 2, 1895

The Special Evening Banner, issued when Chatham became a city describes the churches. "The Baptist Church is large and commodious but unpretentious as to design and is presided over by Rev. J. H. Sowerby.

January 22, 1897

Fred Phelps, Gray Street, entertained members of his Baptist Sunday School Class. An exceedingly pleasant time was spent by the lads and their teacher.

January 29, 1897

Mrs. (Rev.) E. Grigg gives an At Homes this afternoon and will this evening entertain the young people of the congregation of the William Street Baptist Church.

February 6, 1897

On Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m., and every succeeding evening at the same hour, Rev. J. B. Moore of Toronto, will conduct evangelistic services.

(These services continued for two weeks and drew large crowds, he gave "clear, pungent, interesting, biblical sermons. On Tuesday evening, February 16, Rev. Moore said, "Pastors are not killed by work, but by the worry and anxiety which their people should have shared with them.")

FOR CHURCH GOERS

It is noted that a prayer or preparatory service was held at 10.00 a.m., Sunday, February 14, 1897, with Deacon Best in charge. Choir practice was held on Saturday night in 1897.

February 28, 1897

Mrs. William Mann and J. W. Mann sang very acceptable the sacred duet "The Prayer of the Wanderer."

Monday, March 22, 1897

Rev. W. W. Weeks of Toronto, who established for himself an enviable position as a thinker and speaker will deliver two entertaining and profitable lectures at the William Street Baptist Church. Tickets 15; 2 for 25c at the Ark. On Tuesday night a silver collection was taken, the proceeds were to be used to renovate the basement. The subject for the evening was "Henology." Rev. Weeks borrowed from the barnyard scenes various types of hens and showed how each was typical of many men and women of that day.

April 12, 1897

The Mission Band of the William Street Baptist Church are educating and otherwise providing for the physical and spiritual comforts of the heathen in foreign lands, rejoicing under the musical name of Semperia Davidsin. He lives in India and may be a local preacher. Proceeds from a ten cent concert on Thursday night, April 15, will be invested in their protege.

April 24, 1897

Rev. E. Grigg will preach the funeral sermon of the late Robert Houston of Harwich, Kent's pioneer resident, in the William Street Baptist Church next Sunday. (Mr. Houston was over 90 at death. He was the grandfather of Misses Jessie and Grace Houston).

May 5, 1897

A pleasant entertainment was held at the William Street Baptist Church in aid of the organ fund. \$110.00 was collected, leaving only \$200.00 now upon the magnificent organ recently purchased.

May 22, 1897

On Friday, May 28th, the Ladies Aid will give an afternoon excursion to the lighthouse and sail in the lake. Tickets 25c, children half price. Refreshments on board.

June 29, 1897

The Mission Band of the William Street Baptist Church, of which Mrs. S. C. Walker is President, was photographed as a group yesterday afternoon. J. Butler did the work.

August 18, 1897

Rev. J. H. Sowerby, former Pastor of the William Street Baptist Church here, and now of Guelph. has received the Canadian Patent No. 56,823, dated July 17, 1897, good for 18 years. It is for his ingenious invention of improvements in anti-friction bearing. His original intention was to have his inventon apply only to bicycles but he has extended it so it applies to any kind of wheels or machinery.

December 23, 1899

Thomas Cornish, one of Chatham's youngest men, a student at McMaster, preached the morning services at the William Street Baptist Church.

May 7, 1903

Roy Bensen of McMaster University, Toronto, who has been visiting his parents on Cross Street, leaves tomorrow for Sundridge, Parry Sound District, to take charge of the Baptist Church there for the summer.

Ttems of Interest from Old Minute Books

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January 3rd, 1906

An account was received for \$5.35 in favour of the "Ark." Do you remember this variety store, operated by H. Macaulay near the present site of the C.P.R. Ticket Office? Mr. James E. Gray, founder of Gray's China Hall, worked at the Ark and later took it over.

April 1st 1906

Sunday School attendance 321, the largest in many years.

November 25, 1906

At the Farewell Services of Rev. Hoyt both auditorium and gallery "were literally packed." At the close of the morning service, Misses Ella and May Abraham were baptized; after the evening service the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper was observed with 170 participating.

January, 1907

At the Lord's Supper the individual Communion Set presented by the Ladies' Aid, was first used. The old goblets and decanter were offered to the Kingsville Church some time later.

January, 1907

The report of the Pulpit Committee, appointed to find a successor to Rev. Hoyt, recommended that Mr. W. A. Cameron, who had conducted the services on December 23, 1906, be the pastor at a salary of \$1,200, effective May 1st.

Apparently this offer was not accepted for according to the records of Yorkminister Baptist Church, Toronto, "in 1908 the church called as its minister, while still a student at McMaster, the Rev. W. A. Cameron." It is also noted that Rev. Cameron served from 1908 until 1928 in the old Bloor Street Church at which time the congregation moved to their new Yorkminister Church and here he stayed until retirement in 1948.

February 1907

When Rev. W. E. Matthews accepted the call to the church he asked that, "he be left free from the financial and other business of the church, that various committees appointed by the church have control of these matters." This policy we have tried to follow ever since.

May 1907

At a church meeting held after prayer meeting there was a recorded vote of 66 and 49.—a total of 115 at prayer meeting.

June 1907

Shortly after Rev. Matthews accepted the call, almost 100 members left the church and formed another one known as the Central Baptist Church. They selected a building at the corner of Centre and Wellington, where the Imperial Oil Service Station now stands. This building had been erected in 1864 and in the Chatham Directory of 1876-1877 is shown as a brick building belonging to the Primitive Methodists, which society was organized about 1862. It was in 1907 not being used as a church due to a union of some of the Methodist bodies.

The building was renovated, many of the men working at night to help. A Mr. William Simpson, now ninety years told the writer that a number of men, he among them, who were employed at the old Gray Carriage Works, helped after supper, at the carpentry.

At first there was no baptistry in the Central Church and that of the William Street Church was used, however later Mr. George Wanless built one for them. At the back of this baptistry was a beautiful painting, done by Trato, a local artist, of Jesus baptizing at the Jordan. After amalgamation of the two churches this painting was given upon request by Rev. McLeod, to the Louisville Church, where it now is to be found. It is noted that in September this year, when the Louisville church was redecorated, Miss May Abraham retouched the painting and restored its original beauty.

Baptists of Chatham continued to worship in two churches until April 1915, when amalgamation took place. From the minutes it would appear that there was a desire by both groups to retain the Central church with the thought in mind of future expansion. As late as June 1917, the two houses on Centre Street, owned by Elspeth Miller, were purchased for the sum of \$2,500.

The joining of the two church bodies required a new slate of officers. This consisted of officials from both groups and they held office for one year.

An important step in the church history occurred in June 1917. when a by-law was duly passed changing the name of the church and authorizing the Trustees to accept a new deed of what had been the Central church, to execute a new mortgage for \$1,850 to pay off indebtedness and here appears the new name of The Chatham Baptist Church. By this act the Trustees of the Chatham Baptist Church were authorized to hold the land and property on the Central church for the use and purpose of the former.

In May 1921, the tender of Mr. J. A. Black for \$3,500 for the two houses on Centre Street was accepted. The church was later sold to Walter Richards for \$7,500.

November 27, 1907

For the official opening of Chatham's new Armouries on December 3rd, authority was granted to the 24th Kent Regiment to use the church chairs, "on the understanding that any broken ones were to be replaced."

Annual Report of 1908

Deacon Oldershaw reported that the Deacons had met for prayer and the transaction of any business, every Sunday before the morning and evening service.

Sunday, May 9, 1920

Memorial services were held for the late Arthur Dunn with various civic bodies in attendance.

March 17, 1925

The system of maintaining two lists of the Church Roll, one active, the other the reserve list, was adopted.

April 16, 1932

Union services with the First Presbyterian Church, for the summer months was first adopted. This practice has been continued ever since.

March 23, 1941

This date was set aside by His Majesty King George VI as a National Day of Prayer, and in the presence of a detachmnt of soldiers from No. 12 Basic Training Centre, the pulpit Bible previously used in the church, was presented to Hon. Capt. H. S. Cree for the Chapel at the Training Centre. This was duly returned at the disbandment of the Centre.

Dec. 1944-April1945

Rev. H. W. Stewart, our Minister, was on leave of absence due to illness. During this period Rev. O. C. Eliot served as interim pastor.

November 14, 1948

Hon. Deacon John Jack and Mrs. Jack celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

(Mrs. Jack passed away very shortly after; Mr. Jack died in May, 1950).

Nov. 6, 1950

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Arnold celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



Items of Interest Regarding Financial Stewardship

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The following is a resume of progressive stewardship in finance over a period of 24 years from 1926 to 1949 inclusive, taken from Annual Church Statements. The accompanying statement shows some interesting facts in the progressive increase in contributions from Church Membership. For instance, folks of more than average means have passed on over this period and have not been replaced by members in that category, and yet the contributions have increased, which would indicate that more members of moderate means are contributing to the support of the church through regular contributions, so that today we are able to keep our church in a good state of repair and that at the same time contribute to worthy causes outside of our own church. It is noted that during the years 1926 to 1930 some \$7,600.00 was realized partly from the sale of Centre Street property and partly from contributions of members of the Church. This amount appears in the Church records as Building Fund and was used to liquidate the outstanding indebtedness on the Church as the result of extensive renovations carried out a few years previous. It was during this period that a new organ and new pews were installed in the Church with the valuable assistance of the Ladies' Aid Society.

From the Annual Report of 1949 we note that on December 31, the total of balances on hand and in the bank for all organizations was \$2,599.52, in addition to which the Ladies Aid hold War Saving Certificates valued at \$152.00.

We have at present Fire Insurance on the church and contents to the amount of \$65,000.00 and have a coverage on the parsonage for \$5,000.00.

It would appear therefore, that the Chatham Baptist Church has much to be thankful for in that we enjoy a fine place of worship, in good condition and completely solvent in matters of finances.

Epilogue

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"Before us, even as behind us, God is."

Now that we have reached the Present, what shall we say of the Future? Our Centennial Theme, sounds the note we are to follow. The words of the Master. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and Follow Me," gives us the advice we need.

From the text may we make three observations to guide our conduct in our endeavour to carry the Spiritual Torch handed on to us.

We, who come after, must be prepared to make sacrifice, the first principle of which is Self-Denial. "Let him deny himself" are the words of Christ. We know of loved ones sacrificing homes and loved ones, that oppression might cease, but what have we denied ourselves that God's work, here, in this church, may prosper? This denial is to be found in the amount of Time denied ourselves; the amount of Material substance denied ourselves, that the work of spreading the Gospel may increase.

The second principle of Sacrifice is Suffering. "Let him take up his Cross." The Cross has ever been the symbol of pain and sorrow. Our soldier dead knew what suffering was. How much pain have be borne for the sake of Christ. Do we suffer any anguish over the son or daughter or friend who is out of Christ? "If so be that we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him."

The third principle of Sacrifice is Self-surrender. "Follow me." To win a war we gave of our substance, our abilities and ourselves. We surrender all our desires in order that Victory may be gained. Shall we do less in the war for Unrighteousness? The Cross of Christ is lifted above us. It beckons us to follow not through carnage and destruction, but into green fields of peace and love. This requires not part, but complete surrender.

These three principles should be the Guiding Star which beckons us to deny ourselves, suffer, if need be, and make complete surrender of our lives to Him who gave His all that we might have Eternal life.

(Contributed by Manning E. Morgan, on behalf of the Deacon's Board.)

Moneys Raised During Last 24 Years

	Year	General Purposes	Missions & Benevolent Purposes	Total	Building Fund	Church Pastor	Church Treasurer
96	1926—27 1927—28 1928—29 1929—30 1930—31 1931—32 1932—33 1933—34 1934—35 1935—36 1936—37 1937—38 1938—39 1939—40 1940— (9 Mos.) 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946	5,557.19 6,894.16 6,838.33 7,423.78 5,969.41 5,962.38 5,242.11 4,659.53 4,926.50 5,402.57 5,509.73 4,810.37 4,394.90 4,331.29 3,675.84 6,689.86 6,254.92 6,664.86 6,899.73 6,691.35 7,739.00	1,553.18 1,419.74 1.622.56 1,784.48 1,357.94 1,599.58 1,290.56 1,193.88 1,227.78 1,146.10 1,297.90 1,088.30 1,127.11 1,059.47 1,005.55 1,282.88 1,754.69 2,436.97 2,380.97 3,057.18 2,383.59	10,356.12 10,535.64 10,041.24 9,725.76 7,327.35 7,561.96 6,532.67 5,853.41 6,154.28 6,548.67 6,807.63 5,898.67 5,522.01 5,390.76 4,681.39 7,972.74 8,009.61 9,101.83 9,280.70 9,748.53 10,122.59	3245.75 2221.74 1580.35 517.50 Included in Totals	Rev. J. L. Sloat Rev. Jos. Janes Rev. M. L. Gregg Rev. M. L. Gregg Rev. M. L. Gregg Rev. H. W. Stewart	J. E. Gray S. G. Miller J. A. M. Hay Ed. Wanless
	1947 1948 1949	8,194.48 8,405.45 8,706.67	2,763.01 2,516.87 3,155.89	10,958.49 10,922.32 11,862.56		Rev. H. W. Stewart Rev. H. W. Stewart Rev. H. W. Stewart	W. B. Beardall W. B. Beardall W. B. Beardall

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